

THE Hongkong Weekly Press

AND China Overland Trade Report.

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BIRTH.

On July 11th, at Shanghai, the wife of T. P. BAPTISTA, of a daughter.

MARRIAGE.

On July 14th, at Shanghai, FREDERICK NEWMAN MATTHEWS to FLORENCE EMILY SOPER.

DEATHS.

On June 1st, at Liscard, Cheshire, WILLIAM HARRIS, late of H.B.M. Office of Works, Shanghai, aged 41 years.

On 17th July, at Swatow, HAROLD BURTON, of Messrs. Butterfield & Swire, aged 38 years.

Hongkong Weekly Press

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ARRIVAL OF MAILS.

The German Mail of June 19th arrived, per the ss. *Prinz Regent Luitpold*, on Tuesday, the 17th instant; and the French Mail of June 22nd arrived, per the ss. *Ernest Simons*, to-day.

FAR EASTERN NEWS.

Certain officials are asking for a bigger native garrison for Shanghai city.

It is reported that the N. Y. K. has decided to change its bi-weekly service between Hongkong and Bangkok to a weekly service.

The *Japan Gazette* says that the Shanghai petition to the Diplomatic Body in regard to the opening of Manchuria is misapplied.

H.E. the Governor has been pleased to recognise Mr. S. G. Fuller as Vice and Deputy Consul-General of the United States in Hongkong.

L'Echo de Chine learns that the Japanese do not intend to make Port Arthur a fort of the first class, but simply a naval base, leaving Sasebo as the most important station for Japan.

It is reported that arrangements have been concluded between Viceroy Yuan and the Japanese authorities for the purchase of the line from Hsinmintun to Mukden, 120 li, for Tls. 1,500,000.

It is stated in a Chinese paper that H. E. Tang Shao-yi, Chinese Commissioner of Customs, intends to engage a Japanese financial expert to assist in "the re-organisation of the Customs Service".

It is reported that the Nippon Yusen Kaisha has ordered three new steamers, each of 2,500 tons, for the Yangtze service; two steamers of 2,700 tons each for the Shanghai line; and two of 8,500 tons each for the European line.

According to a native paper, the Japanese authorities have selected a site outside the settlement limits of Dalny for the establishment of a Chinese Customs as provided by treaty, also for establishing business houses.

Our Shanghai contemporary claims good authority for stating that the Kawasaki Dock Company have no intention of starting operations at Shanghai. Land was purchased with that intention, but the scheme has been dropped.

Messrs E. S. Kadoorie & Co. inform us that they are in receipt of telegraphic advices from Singapore to the effect that the crushing for the past four weeks of Raubs Australian Gold Mining Co. is 851 ozs. smelted gold from 5,437 tons of stone.

The warships and other vessels submerged in and near the harbour of Port Arthur were disposed of by public tender. The number of vessels offered was 21, which have fallen into the hands of eight bidders. The total price fetched was Y112,898.

On the 18th July, one of a gang of coolies engaged in repairing Conduit Road was knocked down by a heavy rock which fell from the hillside. He received a broken leg and other injuries, and was removed to the Government Civil Hospital.

Chinese and Japanese journalists at Tientsin have formed an association which has as one of its objects the most laudable one of preserving peace in Asia. In any crisis, three editors may convene a meeting to discuss the best unanimous policy. This seems a good idea.

The Japanese Department of Agriculture and Commerce has decided to export iron materials manufactured at the Wakamatsu Iron Works and other foundries to South China. The authorities propose to appoint trustworthy Japanese merchants in China as agents.

Russia's excuse for delaying the withdrawal of her troops from northern Manchuria at present is the depredations of the Houghuzes. The Tartar-Generals of Kirin and Heilungkiang have received orders to immediately suppress the Houghutze so as to frustrate Russia's scheme.

The authorities at Peking, having learned that the Chinese volunteers of Shanghai are well drilled and have excellent rules, have written to the president of the commercial bureau of Shanghai to send a copy of the rules to Peking, where they have also the intention of forming a Chinese volunteer corps.

Owing to contracts from San Francisco on account of the reconstruction of the city, the price of cement in Japan has advanced considerably, ordinary grade which was 3.40 yen or 3.50 per cask being now 4.50 yen on an average. The Asano, Aichi, and other cement companies have special contracts to keep them going for ten years.

The following have been elected officers of the newly-formed British Association of Japan: Chairman, Mr. Montague Beart; Vice-Chairman, Mr. A. G. Morey-Weale; Hon. Treasurer, Mr. V. A. Caesar Hawkins; Hon. Secretary, Mr. F. J. Lias; Committee, Messrs. F. J. Abbott, I. J. Healing, J. Williamson Jones, W. F. Mitchell and Jas. Walter.

An order of H.M. the King in Council revokes the Orders in Council of September 30th, 1873, February 14th, 1883, and November 23rd, 1893, in regard to the mode of estimating the net registered tonnage of Italian ships, and recognises in His Majesty's dominions, the tonnage of such ships denoted on their certificates of registry or other national papers.

An attempt, it is stated in certain quarters, will be made by his enemies to get H.E. Viceroy Shum of the Two Kwang transferred to Foochow and to get H.E. Chou Fu down to Canton, the two Viceroys exchanging posts, but there is nothing so far to confirm the report, the desire probably being father to the thought amongst Viceroy Shum's innumerable ill-wishers in the Two Kwang and at Peking.

The case in which Raheem Bux, Peak Indian watchman, employed by the Sanitary Board, was charged with receiving upwards of \$300 in bribes, was concluded, at the Police Court before Mr. F. A. Hazeland on the 19th July. Defendant, who was represented by Mr. C. F. Dixon (of Mr. J. Hastings' office), reserved his defence and was committed for trial at the next Criminal Sessions. Bail was allowed in the sum of \$2,000.

The editor of the *Chinese Christian Intelligence* says, in a letter to a contemporary: "Generally speaking, the native secular Press is not anti-Christian. On the contrary it is more pro-Christian than the secular Press in Europe or America. One never sees a joke against the Bible in the native papers. The Chinese people are peculiarly susceptible to what they called *Tuoli* or *doc rine*—not specially theological doctrine, but any tenet that professes to teach, instruct and inform."

The *Foochow Echo* of July 7th says:—In the matter of the Camphor Monopoly Bureau of the Chinese Government recently established, we learn from native merchants' sources that the whole thing is squeeze-pidgin. A native camphor merchant tells us that the monopoly is simply established to inflict a tax on camphor from inland, under the pretext of monopoly. As we go to press H.M.'s Consul Mr. G. M. H. Playfair issued the following notification which we print under:—The undersigned has been assured by the Chinese authorities that the recent seizures, and other difficulties connected with the conveyance, of camphor from the interior have been entirely caused by uncertainty as to ownership. British merchants are recommended either to take out transit passes for their consignments of camphor or to provide their employes with unequivocal proofs that the goods under conveyance are the property of a British firm.

HOTHOUSE TIMIDITY.

(Daily Press, 14th July.)

It is always more satisfactory to a writer to have instead of one isolated text, a group of correlatives. Truly or falsely it seems to widen the outlook, and to bring nearer what the classics called "universals". Thus for present consideration we take the demands for rigorous prosecution of anarchists, the type of fiction now being published by the halfpenny papers, and some comments made by the *North-China Daily News* on the appearance of a battalion of Chinese volunteers at Shanghai. Here are incongruities rather than correlatives, it may be urged: which "just shows", as the nursery people say, the untrustworthiness of judgment at first sight. The majority of the newspapers have been pleading that the nations should eschew sentimentality and enter upon a policy of rigorous suppression. They appear happily unconscious of the fact that their singularly unanimous outburst is a direct outcome of the shock to sentiment. We have remarked the circumstance that nearly all have seen the horrid aspect of the outrage at Madrid in the fact that it should have coincided with the bridal march, that it should have marred such supreme moments of a woman's life. Then while all shared the rejoicing for a fortunate escape, few thought of the mangled dead at first. When these unfortunates were remembered, it seemed only as a spur to the cries for action, stern, merciless, against the social pests whose mad methods had caused the sensation. We set down this reflection with all due respect for human nature, admitting that the present popular attitude towards all anarchists was to be expected in the circumstances.

Then we pass on to the type of fiction mentioned, which, as most readers know, is a modern imitation, with less literary merit, of the "Battle of Dorking" of old "Maga" days. At the back of all these sensational pictures of England invaded and blasted by conquering foreigners there is an excusable purpose, akin to the objects of bodies like the Navy League, and of those who believe in the urgent need of adopting conscription. In the proper place, the traditional place for the moral of a story, we will say how and why we consider this method of pursuing a right purpose to be wrong.

There remains the third item of our multiple text, the question of the Chinese volunteers at Shanghai. Our contemporary notes their smartness and relative efficiency, points out that it was the riots of last December that called them into being, doubts the necessity of their existence as a body, and has no doubt at all that they constitute a danger to local society. In our contemporary's place, we should probably have said similar things, for its first concern is of course the safety of the European community whom it so ably represents. If at this safe distance we are able to see something amusing in the quotation following, and find it fits our purpose, we know we shall be forgiven for any seeming disrespect in the using of it.

"So long as the members of the Chinese corps content themselves without arms, no serious objection can be raised to their continued existence, but it is known that this is not the intention. There are very obvious reasons why it would be unwise, if not impossible, to enrol Chinese volunteers under the banner of the Municipality, and there are equally grave reasons for requiring that they shall not exercise their very laudable desires for military training either within or just upon the borders of the Settlement. At any given moment there might come in the

future, as has unfortunately happened in the past, a clash of opinions between the foreign Council and the Chinese local authorities and it would be unfair to the members of the corps themselves to lay them open even to the possibility of a choice of allegiance."

To emphasise the correlation of the foregoing references is to make the point. It is that, for causes as yet not fully appreciated, the race is in danger of becoming too panicky, if it has not already gone too far. Our preachers and writers feed us on panics, even manufacturing panic material when it does not conveniently present itself. Some years ago it was remarked that the disproportionate terror shown whenever an anarchist bomb exploded was evident in the unanimous ferocity with which the assailants were denounced. The people who run the greatest risk, the monarchs, show their breeding in the calmness of their bearing; those whose peril is a hundred thousand times less indulge in a sheepish rage. The deliberate criers of "wolf, wolf" evidently assume that the people are so many sheep, best moved by a good scare. Thus our modern fiction is designed to "make our flesh creep". To persuade the Briton to increase the number of his soldiers, or to augment the material of his navy, they deliberately try to evoke feelings of fear. As yet the Briton is not quite a coward, and we suspect that an inner and perhaps unconscious resentment against these methods has tended to make him incline an ear, perversely as it were, to the cranks who preach disarmament, and so to bring about grave Cabinet crises like the one mentioned in our telegrams. We do not insist upon this hypothesis: we do think it time that the old spirit, which enabled DRAKE'S men to play a good game of bowls while awaiting the Armada, should be given a chance to re-assert itself. Our ancestors did not worry about an extra ton or gun, but simply kept themselves "fit", to meet the foe, big or little. The idea of regarding the Chinese volunteers complacently, so long as they remain unarmed, would be amusing were it not for its contrary suggestion that carrying arms they deserve to be fearfully regarded. Yielding to hysterical outbursts against anarchists (who are not more numerous than ordinary murderers, whom we all risk), listening to silly stories of imaginary devastations in our territory, and so on, cannot but be demoralising. At the time of Togo's victory over ROZHDZESTVENSKY, the *Times* made a good point when it said that event showed that mere material equality was as dust in the balance when weighed in the day of battle against superiority of moral equipment. The arguments against the new short rifle may be remembered as symptomatic of the demoralising nervousness against which we write. The risk to our soldiers with its shorter reach was dwelt upon, as if the man with the longer reach must always win, by virtue of mere inches. A good stout heart and cool nerves count for something. The hawk attacking the young rooks never stops to reckon the odds against him.

THE "NEW TERRITORY."

(Daily Press, 16th July.)

In eight years, the New Territory must have lost its standing as a *terra incognita*; but how many who complain that at Hong-kong there is "nowhere to go" have crossed the bleak looking hills that form the familiar background to all our pictures of Kowloon? "Very many, indeed", is one answer, accompanied by the suggestion that only a griffin could find anything new on the other side. We are inclined to doubt this. Many residents of the Colony are

glib enough with "tips" as to the best beats for game, as to the distances from point to point, and often the inquirer is warned against a pleasure excursion, the chief drawback appearing to be the difficulty of obtaining suitable refreshments. Now we can hardly be expected to labour the point that a man who goes over to search for partridges or deer will have his attentive faculties sufficiently taxed to excuse his overlooking matters in which other people are interested. From the viewpoint of the Hedonist, there is much to be said for a day's ramble over the district to be opened up by the Kowloon-Canton Railway. Others have remarked it, but neither the years nor the explorers have been sufficiently plentiful to say all that deserves to be said. There offers

"Such bliss

Beggars enjoy, when princes oft do miss." His Excellency the GOVERNOR, who ambled over on pony-back in the cool of Saturday evening, did not look like an Saturday prince. Doubtless the cares of State, as exemplified by the much-criticised railway scheme, took up a large share of his mind; but it was noticed that his face did not wear its Legislative Council expression.

"Often, glad no more,

We wear a face of joy because we have been glad of yore."

Up there was sufficient occasion for present gladness. One glorious panorama after another unfolds to the Rambler's eye, much as they do on our own Peak roads, but with the additional advantage, for those who prefer pleasing prospects without vile man in them, that there are no signs of steam or smoke. Indeed one can enter into something of the awe of old-time explorers of whose exploits we read, for the valley of Tide Cove [name of romance!] yields up its secrets deliberately, one by one, as if to make us appreciate each point to the full, like a connoisseur mouthing rare wine. And through "the midst of this wide quietness", before we are well entered into the second decade of possession, railway trains will puff and snort and shriek. If any excuse be needed for our thus discussing nothing in particular, it should be that we take the opportunity to urge nature-lovers to enjoy what is as yet unblemished. On this side of the hills, the Botanical and Afforestation Department had nakedness to clothe; on yon, there was little but trimming to do, and it must have been discreetly done. Saturday's sunshine burnished the ripe rice-fields, in which the women were busy harvesting. Looking down from above, there seemed acres and acres of verdant crops; but closer inspection showed that most was ready for the sickle. In the village environs, the flails were busy. Whether reaping or threshing, the labourers were all women and girls, so that there was a chance to verify LEIGH HUNT'S famous couplet,

"The two divinest things the world has got—

A lovely woman in a rural spot."

It was stated that there were reasons for the dearth of men; that railway work and mining drew them from agriculture. A vision of a miracle famous throughout Christendom was beheld on the innermost arm of that Tide Cove already mentioned. An Oriental walked upon the water! Wide as it is, and often dotted with fishing boats, this bay is so shallow that during low tide only an inch or two of water remains, and walking is more practicable than sailing. There are whispers that a "brain", well known for its cleverness in providing for the substitution of sampans with electric trams, has conceived an idea for damming this bay and reclaiming much land, which,

seeing that it would border the new railway, should be a valuable acquisition. At present nine-foot sharks swim boldly in, and tiny silver fish leap about the piers that mark the outer edge of the railroad track. Parts of this country, which have to be re-traversed on the homeward journey, make the lay mind ponder on the hardship of railway engineers. Although experienced ones declare that there is no really serious obstacle on this British section of the track, there are difficulties and peculiar exigencies sufficient to allay any amazement at the policy of permitting specialists, rather than the Public Works Department, to tackle them.

PIRATES ON THE WEST RIVER

(Daily Press, 17th July.)

As one put it in conversation, "If I had been with them, I should have considered myself to be as safe from physical violence as if in a Hongkong street." The second pronoun, of course, referred to the unfortunate officers and passengers of the s.s. *Sainam*, the pirating of which has given such a painful shock to the community. Vaguely it has been understood that piracy was still rife in the neighbourhood, but few people realised that there was serious risk for more than a few Chinese junks and traders. When the comparatively recent case of an attack upon a native craft was reported, the fact that there was a foreign passenger on board caused the offenders to be generally described as "daring". The present case is worse. It shows that the villains are no respecters of persons, and that a big foreign steamer, with foreign passengers, and foreign manned, is looked upon as prey no more difficult than a silk junk. The white man just now is troubled with several uneasy reflections. Even a trip to Canton or Macao cannot be held to be safe from such experiences; and it is evident that so far as the modern pirate of South China is affected by it, the prestige of the white man has a dwindling importance. When a man like Dr. Macdonald of Wuchow is callously murdered, there is some excuse if popular resentment should demand the harshest possible measures against all suspects. The deceased missionary had a character which lifted him above all discussion of the Missionary Question, for or against. He was generally recognised as a thoroughly altruistic man who sacrificed self and private means to the work into which he had thrown all the enthusiasm of an earnest and generous life. The Chinese could not have found a more sincere friend among their own people. It remains to be seen whether his neighbours and their officials will honestly atone by doing all they can to bring about the discovery and suppression of the miscreants who have thus bitten the hand that fed them, who were such hardened criminals, in fact, that they could blow out the brains of a proud man. But bad as this aspect is, there is a worse. Such an attack upon such a vessel, engaged in such a public service is no mere local matter. It might at least not improperly become an international affair, in which the Government of Great Britain would be entitled to make very strong demands upon the Chinese Imperial Government. Pourparlers between Hongkong and the Viceroy might have just as much effect, to begin with; but the provincial authorities have been so long about it that we cannot give them credit for any real attempt to hunt out these pirates. They will not bestir themselves even now, without some strong inducement. A gunboat sent up to the village or

villages at which the pirates were known to have boarded the steamer, would provide that inducement, if it were clearly understood that they had orders to shell and destroy the said villages in default of proper satisfaction. There must be sufficient evidence up there to ensure the arrest of some of the real offenders, and we have only suggested an old-fashioned but effective way of getting at it. It is not much use asking for an increased patrol of the river, for there is never anything for the foreign gunboat to see or chase. In this case the pirates put off to the ship like peaceful passengers, and were doubtless received with all due respect. The movements of the junks that had arranged to take them off when their nefarious work was done could not have awakened any suspicion, if they had been seen by a dozen gunboats. The only people who can really get at these men are the provincial officials, who can find them if they search in earnest. We presume that the necessary pressure will be somehow applied; otherwise, the present popular uneasiness is likely to continue.

DR. TIMOTHY RICHARD'S DREAMS.

(Daily Press, 18th July.)

In an article which he has contributed to the *Contemporary Review* Dr. Timothy Richard gives a valuable account of the manner in which China has been influenced by different forms of religion, and of the general feeling which exists in the Empire with respect to Christianity. Upon this point he will be read with the respect which is due to an undoubted authority, and many will welcome the hopeful views which, speaking generally, he takes upon the subject. It is, however, to be regretted that he has wandered from the subject on which he is so well informed into the field of international politics, in respect to which, if we are to judge from the views which he sets forth, he is not so well qualified to speak. He starts from a basis which few men who have had practical experience in political matters will be disposed to accept as one that can be relied upon—the idea, namely, that the day will come when it will be possible to settle all international differences without resort to force. Upon this point he refrains from argument and is content in a somewhat lofty strain to express his full belief that, little as people generally may recognise the fact, "things are moving slowly towards the abandonment of the standing militarism of modern international intercourse". It is consoling to find that there are at least some people left who can take this view of things amidst the many discouraging facts that would seem to point to a very different conclusion. While Germany, France and America are all increasing their navies, and while, to look at things in our own neighbourhood, China herself is endeavouring to re-organise her army and improve her navy, we can hardly see any very definite signs of the abandonment of militarism to which Dr. Richard concludes so confidently we are advancing. Following up this line of thought, he asks

What is there to hinder an agreement between (say) America, Great Britain, Germany, France, Italy and the smaller powers with Japan and possibly Russia to respect and even guarantee the territorial integrity of China, relieve her of the dread of European or Japanese aggression, encourage her to fit herself by reform of her codes and judicial institutions for the removal of extraterritoriality and lay the foundation of a complete understanding between East and West which would exorcise both the white and the yellow perils by the pledge of a world peace?

To this question the writer himself unconsciously gives the answer, namely, in the word "possibly" which he is constrained to use in regard to Russia's "respecting or even guaranteeing" the integrity of China. It is precisely the possibility that one nation or another may not adhere to a policy of preserving the integrity of China that gives rise to the necessity of those nations who are in favour of that course, including China herself, being on the alert. But what form does Dr. Richard think a guarantee of the kind he suggests must take? It could in the nature of things be nothing else than a pledge to support China materially; in other words, by force against any nation who should threaten her independence. It is not very likely that any foreign nation would be inclined to accept a responsibility of this kind, and certainly if any of them did so it would not tend to do away with the militarism in international relations which Dr. Richard deplores. The general line of policy which he advocates is precisely that which foreign nations, with the exclusion of Russia, have endeavoured to follow for years past, with the exception that none of them have gone so far as absolutely to guarantee China against aggression. China has always hoped to bring them to this point, which would certainly be extremely convenient for her, as relieving her of a duty which is manifestly cast upon her. So far as moral influence is concerned Great Britain, the United States, and in the main France also, have for the last half century, done all in their power to prevent a disintegration of China, knowing full well the serious political and economical results which such an event would entail. It is a little too much, however, to ask that any of the nations in favour of this policy should be willing to "guarantee" that all others will follow it, and this is precisely what there is "to hinder" such an agreement as is suggested and which appears to Dr. Richard to be so simple and so easy a matter.

The real remedy for China is not to endeavour to induce foreign nations to guarantee her integrity in any such way as is suggested, but to honestly try to establish such relations with the outside world as will remove the possibility of any one nation having either cause or finding excuse for aggressive action against her. In addition to this, no doubt, China, like any other nation, must place herself in a position to protect herself at least to the extent of making it clear that a war with her is not a matter to be lightly contemplated or hastily undertaken. This latter point China has fully realised, probably agreeing with the German Emperor (but very much against the views of Dr. Richard) that each new battleship is a guarantee of peace. Within certain limits, this is undoubtedly a fact on the *si vis pacem, para bellum* principle; and no one can object to China improving her executive if at the same time she also take care to improve her external administration, so that the chances of legitimate cause of disagreement may be reduced to a minimum. It was the weakness of China, causing her to yield to Russian encroachments in Manchuria, which led to the recent war between Russia and Japan; the latter country having to take up the attitude which China should have been able to adopt for herself. It is not to be expected that reforms can be made in China so rapidly or effectively, or as they were made in Japan, whose circumstances were much more favourable to such changes, but it is clear to all Europeans who have studied the existing political situation that the time has come when changes must be

made in China in the same direction, and there are signs that this fact is at last being recognised by China herself.

RELIGIONS IN THE FAR EAST.

(Daily Press, 19th July)

Following our remarks yesterday, we may briefly note the numerous kindred references that have appeared in the press since Dr. RICHARD's quaint comments. Christendom seems to be ignoring the parable of the lilies, and taking thought, not only for its own to-morrow, but for all the to-morrows of the Chinese and Japanese. Perhaps the most interesting is Mr. A. R. COLQUHOUN's contribution to the *Fortnightly*, on "Christianity and China". Where Mr. COLQUHOUN sticks to his subject, his utterances appear quite authoritative. It was necessary, perhaps, considering the "smugness" of many of his readers, to insist that the Chinese are not lacking in the moral sense; and he had also the right to add his opinion of the influence on the Chinese character of the respective cults, that have found a home in the Empire. He notes a change which we do not consider as real as it seems: formerly we were told that the common people welcomed Christianity and the government and literati were hostile to it. It is now the latter who are ostentatiously friendly, while the anti-missionary feeling is spreading throughout the country. The missionary with sufficient experience and candour has to admit that at bottom there has been no vital change of sentiment on either side. When we were told that "the common people welcomed Christianity" we were told what was not true, or at least, we were deceived by exaggeration. When Mr. COLQUHOUN considers the prospects of Christianity in China, he asks what Christianity has to offer to China. Ethics? Christian ethics, he contends, are inferior to her own, for while our moral system is based on individualism hers is founded on family life. "The spiritual consolations and upliftings of our religion do not have the same appeal to a people whose fundamental idea of virtue is stoicism, and whose mystical side has been fed to repletion." "But," he adds elsewhere, "Christian civilisation without doctrine has much to offer China, and the benefits of advanced humanitarianism, of applied science, and of personal devotion to an ideal are beginning to bear good fruit after a long period in which their connection with the hated foreigners and his ways was their great obstacle." Japan became as efficient as the barbarian without adopting his religion; China cannot have failed to notice this.

"The conviction of sin and the longing for salvation do not enter into the Chinaman's purview of life, and when we reflect that many things which we call sin are virtues in his eyes it is hard to see how we are to bring these things home to him." Mr. COLQUHOUN further says, "Chinese philosophy and morality are breaking down of themselves before the impact of materialism, and, dark as the outlook has been and still is for the spread of the dogmas of Christianity, there is reason to believe that the efforts of Christian men to raise the Chinese standard at just those points where it is lowest—in humanitarianism, respect for women, and other respects—will eventually win for the religion which prompted them a recognition which no propaganda could attain."

Some of Mr. COLQUHOUN's commentators drag him with them into the error of "Christian civilisation", the civilisation of Europe "which has grown out of" Europe's religion, and so on. Perhaps it is only fair that as Christianity is so often blamed for European naughtinesses, it should have credit for all the European virtues.

Civilisation and Christianity, however, are not so indissolubly bound up as many innocent people seem to assume. Social amenities are evolved of necessity, quite independently of religion. Ethics never have hung on to the tail of any religion, though some religions have lived, parasitically, upon ethics, with but little of their own to justify their existence. The subject is not a particularly savoury one, and it is fortunate that a man like Tolstoy, in his essay on "Church and State", should have already published these truthful but disagreeable statements, that the words "Christian State" have almost as little significance as would have the terms "hot ice"; and Christian Civilization implies not much more than frog's feathers. The national character is demoralised by so much as it is forced to attribute its development to fictitious causes; a religion deteriorates in quality the moment it is adopted as a State formula. The HONORARY SECRETARY of the Pan-Islamic Society, who rejoices at the silly rumour that Japan is about to adopt Islam, says, "As has been suggested in the *Morning Post*, the political advantages that Japan can gain by adopting Islam as her State religion are too obvious to be hidden from the eyes of the statesmen of Japan." Obviously, there is behind that the counter-hope, the ambition of CONSTANTINE's archbishops. The bribe is thus dangled in the eyes of the Tokyo Government.

"If she (Japan) dreams of becoming one day a world-power, and to make Asia again dominate other Continents as she did once, Japan cannot realise that object but by adopting the enlivening and inspiring religion of Islam—the simple, invigorating, and practical religion—the religion of Mahammad, the greatest reformer, legislator, conqueror, commander, a nation and Empire founder; the religion of Khalid, the conqueror of Persia in Asia; the religion of Amrou, the conqueror of the land of Pharaohs in Africa; and the religion of Mahammad II., the conqueror of the invincible Constantinople in Europe."

The Christian missionaries are more generous; they promise that their converts shall "inherit the earth". OMAR's scathing line seems to apply, "Oh, the sorry trade". "Whence arises this insensate desire of indoctrinating one's brethren?" It is TOLSTOY who asks, "In good truth, if these people were in possession of the truth they would understand that this belief is nothing else than the sentiment of the hidden significance of life itself, that it establishes the relations of each individual between himself and God, and that this faith consequently cannot be imparted; whatever they can make enter, and whatever they have made enter into the minds of others is not faith but only an appearance of faith." TOLSTOY's admirers in the Far East have unusual opportunities for confirming his proposition.

TIMBER WASTE IN CHINA.

(Daily Press, 20th July.)

Almost alone of Asiatic lands from Asia Minor to the Pacific coast, has the thinly populated land between the Sengari and the Yalu, and the Pacific coast, preserved in any measure its ancient forest growth. China has led the way in her perverse and senseless destruction, not only of the forests but even of her grasses, so that where once, as the ballad tells us

Amidst rich plains the meads of Chow
With iris and narcissus glow,
is now for the most part a dreary expanse of tilled land, so devoid of shelter from the effects of wind and rain, that in the spring the soil may be seen bodily moving off; and where with recurring regularity in autumn

the parched soil refuses to mature the grain sprinkled on it by the industrious husbandman. In consequence the whole of Northern China, and to a lesser but still considerable extent the greater part of the South, is devoid of timber for the ordinary purposes of domestic life, and is reduced to the miserable necessity of using for fuel the constantly decreasing droppings of animals, or of grubbing up by the roots the few remains of the once luxuriant vegetation which formerly covered the now arid plains or hillsides. Nor is the case much better when we come to Eastern Siberia. True there exist certain Russian laws which forbid the destruction of trees, but in the existing state of mis-government, or rather perhaps of no-government, that prevails in these regions no machinery exists for putting these in practice. Nor is Japan, though better in respect to the general love for trees exhibited by her people, in much better case economically, and we see in every annual report issued by the Government complaints of the gradual destruction of the forest growth. It was under these circumstances that under the suicidal influence of a BEZOBRAZOFF, Admiral ALEXIEFF was sent by the Tsar as his satrap into the Far East; and one of the first acts of the new administration was a plan for the wholesale exploitation of these covered reserves. Urged on by the pressure from behind, ALEXIEFF was driven to practically annex these districts, and it was this feature of his rule that finally brought him into contact with Japan, and so was one of the main causes of the late war.

It might have been anticipated that taught from her own home experience the inevitable result of the destruction of forests, China might have learnt the wisdom of taking care for her own use of what still remained under her jurisdiction; but it is not one of the traits of her Government to take lessons from past experiences; and so on the declaration of peace, while snapping and quarrelling with her neighbour on every other subject, how insignificant it may be in its results, she has stood by and given a free hand to Japan in carrying out the former Russian project of destroying the Manchurian forests. We are in fact treated to the by no means edifying sight of a triangular duel between China, Russia and Japan of further schemes for the effacement of the one valuable piece of forest left intact in Asia; and all this without the slightest apparent apprehension on the part of any of the three that in this war against nature herself they are committing an irreparable crime against not only themselves but against humanity at large, more especially that portion of it that inhabits Eastern Asia. The destruction of the forests of North America is bringing about its own revenge. The world is beginning to discover that it is not far from a wood famine, and the States and Canada are beginning to wake up to the effects of the proximate danger. In Europe, it is to be hoped, past experience has taught more wisdom, and we find the leading States taking stringent measures to preserve their own forest growths. Japan at home is beginning to look the matter squarely in the face; and this it is that still further emphasises the recklessness that for a mere momentary benefit permits her to sanction the destruction even now being carried on on her flanks. She, at least, has no excuse to offer for her conduct. Russia so far as any appeal to her better feelings is concerned may, of course, be left out of account. The reckless extravagance that has left her bankrupt at home is not

likely to be thought seriously of when the subject lies some ten thousand miles away from St. Petersburg; and there only remains China. But China is in matters of state economy, if possible, more reckless than Russia herself. Just now China is afflicted with the delusion that all she requires is to be left alone to work out her own salvation, or destruction. If the manner in which she has treated her forests in the past be one of the signs of her capacity she must be content to take the very lowest rank amongst nations; for not one has equalled her in the extent to which she has wasted her own resources. In all respects then with regard to these Manchurian forests we are in an evil case. It is not only in the distress brought about by want of timber that forest destruction leaves its sting behind it, the climatal effects are still more serious, and of these it might be supposed that China has seen enough to make her cautious for the future. Nothing is more depressing to the visitant to Northern China than the climatic effects of her wastefulness in the past. Her productive land is every year being confined within narrower limits; her very soil is being carried out seaward by the winds of Heaven acting on the now unprotected surface, while her rivers, swollen recurrently to flood by the absence of brushwood or forest, annually destroy the crops over vast areas. All these are preventible, and Chinese statesmen are perfectly aware of the fact; but still not one troubles himself to sound the warning note to his contemporaries. Truly of the Chinese nation it may be said that they make clean the outside of the cup and platter, while all within is reeking with rank carelessness and decay.

LEGAL HARDSHIPS.

(Daily Press, 21st July.)

Gentle amusement may be expressed at the appeal recently made by a popular avastist for "clear thinking", not because the general appeal was unnecessary, not because it is a prayer that average human nature is scarcely able to grant, but because the writer was rash enough to advance a specimen, on a subject so difficult as the nature of eternity. Some metaphysicians have asserted that it is a name rather than a concept, that the human mind cannot possibly entertain an actual conception of such a nature. The novelist, after some avowed "clear thinking", asserted that all the trouble arises from our foolish ignoring of the "fact" that eternity is a "negation of time". A little more clear thinking would have shown him, we think, that such a negation is a concept just as humanly impossible as the other. Time is. A negation of time is, paradoxically, a time when time is not. To illustrate crudely, when all the clocks and mechanisms for marking time are not, when there is no longer any conscious entity to note the divisions or passage of time, the novelist's eternity may be said to begin. Suppose that time is negated on December 31st, at the stroke of midnight. Although there is an absolute vacuum, empty even of clear or any other thinking (another impossible concept), at the end of an interval that would have been counted (just before) as sixty minutes long, it will be one o'clock of the first day of eternity, whether it be recognised or not. This preamble is an accidental outcome of an intention to plead for clear thinking in some mundane matters which, however their importance be dwarfed in metaphysical eyes, are well worth the effort of struggling to get free from habit, convention, and rank

prejudice. The text may be found partly in the recent Hongkong police court conviction and fine of a man guilty of possessing certain swords without police permission; and partly in the following excerpt:

A literal interpretation of the commandment "Thou shalt not kill" was responsible for an Englishman's confinement in jail for six weeks. He was released by the Home Secretary after serving six weeks of a sentence of three months for cruelty to animals. When he was charged at Manchester it was alleged that old horses too weak to stand and supported by slings were found in his stables. At least 2,000 persons signed the petition to the Home Secretary for his release and it was argued on his behalf that he was a man of the kindest nature, who would not hurt any living thing. He interpreted the sixth commandment as applying to all created things, and he regularly bought old and infirm horses to save them from being shot. His stable was fitted up for their care, and he did all in his power to make them comfortable and their end peaceful. It was stated that it was a collection of such horses that the officials found in his stable.

Such cases—the two cited are typical of frequently occurring ones—customarily provoke some people to indignant outbursts, but these are outnumbered by the majority whose attitude is blended of a half cynical despair and a perhaps consequent phlegm. The indignant outbursts do not always tend towards reforms, possibly because they are more often characterised by moral indignation than by clear thinking. Even the clearest of clear thinking, with its result in the shape of logical argument, cannot be expected to work immediate miracles. If a man convinced against his will retains the same opinions still, it is obvious that men are not easily to be convinced against their ingrained sentiments. The most effectual "arguments", as electioneers have recently been demonstrating, are those which appeal to sentiment. We are sometimes tempted to believe that we are as a race less ruled by reason than we claim to be. Sentiments, or instincts, or whatever the hidden motives may be, seem to account for more of our actions than we might care to realise. Philosophy, like poetry, too often appeals to our mood rather than to our mind. The one that fits our mood, or our preconceptions, we call good poetry or good philosophy as the case may be. Still, we are always admitting, by our very pretensions, that it is our manifest duty to strive after clear thinking. His Excellency the GOVERNOR on Thursday repeated our regular boast that man alone is a reasoning animal. Let us reason together, then, oftener; clearing the ground sometimes, as our Judges are supposed to do, by sweeping away for the purpose all preconceived opinions that are not elementary and self-evident propositions. There, however, is a point where we often stray: we must be certain that our premisses are axiomatic in the strictest logical sense of the word. The story of the lady canvasser who assumed that Mr. CHAMBERLAIN'S protection policy was something of interest to all lovers of animals typifies the carelessness we would avoid. When this clear thinking becomes a more general habit, when more men insist upon thinking for themselves, such anomalies as the imprisonment of an ultra-humane man, and the fining of a seller of curios, will lead to changes of the law, radical alterations and simplifications that no tradition or conservatism can stave off. All law at bottom spells equity and justice: these are its sole and sufficient reason for existing; but no code or system ever invented was capable of fitting all and every case. So long as we cannot rely upon a uniform supply of men like

ARISTIDES, we must have the generalised law, with its precedents, and processes, and other limitational lumber. But if it be reasonable to ask the average man to think more clearly and feel less acutely, how much more reasonable is it to expect that those who are called upon to administer the law should remember the law's defects and limitations, and to cultivate and act with a discretion appropriate to clear thinking? The Great Unpaid are fond of such formulas as, "We are very sorry for you. Your case seems a very hard one; but we are here to administer the law as we find it, not to amend it". We should have more respect for this Spartan attitude if we had not noticed that the same magistrates can, on occasion (when heckling "conscientious objectors", for instance), show that they have opinions of their own. The amount of personal discretion exercised by the administrator is often an index of his calibre. There have been in the past so many able men who have tempered hard-and-fast law with commonsense that the lawyers have little difficulty nowadays in finding precedents to accommodate both parties to a suit. This means, as is notorious, that the essential defects and limitations of all generalised law have been supplemented by an unnecessarily confusing accretion. But had as all that is (to the clear thinker), it is scarcely bad enough to warrant such cases as the two we have selected. In the cruelty to animals case, the defendant seems to have had the Burmese view of what is proper treatment of our dumb relatives. His horse hospital was exactly on a par with some arrangements that are referred to in Mr. FIELDING HALL'S beautiful book on the Burmese, "The Soul of a People". Yet the sufferings of the horses were sufficient to justify (to the non-clear thinkers) the charge of cruelty. All our law touching on this matter of cruelty is inconsistent. It does not apply to all animals capable of suffering pain. It punishes a poor carter for working a horse with a saddle-sore, and it ignores the shop-keeper who tortures a hundred flies at a time on one of those viscid abominations called fly-papers. It fines a man for testing terrier puppies (meant to accompany other hounds) on an ownerless cat; and it positively refuses to think of the panting agony of the hare or fox, and the excruciating moments that must precede the actual kill. It needs clear thinking to discover what is "wilful cruelty". That the clear thinking was not done until the unfortunate humanitarian had endured six weeks of cruel injustice is a matter for keen regret. Assuming that the man's explanation was given at once, his persecutors seem to have had the purpose of the law hidden by their too careful study of the letter. It seems to us quite evident that no Hongkong legislator ever intended that the possession of an old-fashioned Japanese sword, in carved ivory sheath, was to be regarded as an offence entailing a penalty and confiscation. The MAGISTRATE who tried the case the other day himself took the same view, but subsequently, apparently after some further representation by the police, fined the possessor and confiscated the "curios". What was that representation? If it was to the effect that the swords in question were destined for an unlawful purpose, and that they were dangerous lethal weapons disguised as curios, then the fine—any fine—was quite inadequate. Is the matter really to rest here? Is there to be no clear thinking at all? We do not suggest that the machinery of the Legislative Council should be invoked to qualify the ordinance as it stands. There is no need for that

no need to pass a Bill stating possible exemptions. A little clear thinking by the police authorities (who have surely enough serious work to do without hunting for such merely technical offenders), a little more courage on the part of the magistrates to deal justice with what we call common-sense, and a little more clear thinking by the legislators, whose ordinances should be drafted so as to need less interpretation—just the little more and how much it is—and life in this community would become far less complex than it seems to be at present.

THE NEW HARBOUR OFFICE.

OPENED BY H.E. THE GOVERNOR.

The new Harbour Office, constructed near the Canton steamer wharf, was formally opened on July 16th by H.E. the Governor.

Perhaps nothing illustrates the growth and progress of Hongkong more than the changes which have taken place with regard to the harbour offices. The first one stood on the site occupied by the City Hall, and as the shipping interests of the Colony demanded greater accommodation, what is now the old building was erected on the harbour front on Praya East. In course of years it also became unsuited for the work it had to do. Its harbour-view was shut off by the buildings put up on the reclaimed land in front, while the accommodation for the increased staff became insufficient. About three years ago the erection of the new office was commenced. It is three storeys in height, covers much the same ground as the old office in Des Vœux Road, and is built of granite and brick, the upper storeys being plastered. A watch-tower and a flagstaff are conspicuous features. As the accommodation is detailed in His Excellency's speech it is only necessary to add that fireproof record rooms are placed on the ground and first floors.

In honour of the occasion flags decorated the building, while the approach was laid with red cloth. Among those present at the ceremony were Commodore Williams, the Hon. Captain Barnes-Lawrence (Harbour Master), the Hon. A. T. Sercombe Smith (Colonial Secretary), the Hon. Mr. W. Chatham (Director of Public Works), the Hon. Mr. E. A. Hewett, Mr. A. G. M. Fletcher, Rev. C. H. Hickling, Captain Clark, Captain Milroy, Messrs. H. G. C. Fisher, Mr. E. Jones (Assistant Harbour Master), J. Macdonald (Marine Surveyor), W. A. Orake, W. Russell, Chan Ah Tong, (contractor), J. T. Longstaff, Grant Smith M. M. Ivor, E. J. Meugens, and others.

His Excellency, who was accompanied by his A.D.C.s, Captain Smith and Captain Colman, was received by the Harbour Master and escorted to the Marine Court, where the ceremony took place.

The HARBOUR MASTER said—Your Excellency and Gentlemen,—I would like to express on behalf of the Harbour Office department and myself the extreme gratification that His Excellency has seen his way to come down and open the new premises. We are more particularly glad in this respect because he has taken the greatest interest in the work, which was commenced before he arrived in the Colony, and we shall regard it with the greatest gratitude that he has put that house in order. When His Excellency arrived in the Colony the life blood of the harbour office was gradually ebbing away. The older officials were being pensioned off and there was difficulty in getting men to come forward to enlist in the services of the harbour office on account of the stagnation in promotion and the difficulties in connection with salaries. His Excellency made very careful personal investigations and satisfied himself that something was required and the result was that the older officials (of whom two, who have served for 34 and 36 years respectively, Messrs. Botelho and Britto, still remain with us) have been recognised. The grading system was introduced and the department was put into a position in which I do not hesitate to say it is now able to fulfil the duties of an office of importance to the Colony. With

regard to the work of the office it is undoubtedly strenuous at times, but the fact that we have behind us the recognition to which I have already alluded and also the fact which I would like to mention publicly of the relationship between the officials and the heads of these great shipping firms represented in Hongkong, has always been of such a character as to help and encourage us in the work we have to do (applause). With respect to our records, we have the proud boast that in the office we have just left we have issued statistics that constituted records in respect of the amount of tonnage of ships entering and clearing this entrepôt of Hongkong. In conclusion, I would express the fervent hope that in our new office we shall continue to maintain that supremacy we have established and whose lustre may be shed in the welfare of the premises. I will now ask you to kindly start us on our new career of usefulness and declare the premises open for public business (applause).

His EXCELLENCY said—It was suggested to me that it might be appropriate if some formal ceremony marked the transference of the harbour office from its former headquarters to this new building, so I have come down to give you a few facts with regard to this building and then formally declare it to be open for public business. The building owes its origin to a committee which sat in the time of Sir William Robinson, some ten years ago, to investigate the condition of the public offices of that time. It was proposed by that committee that the new harbour office should be erected in front of the old site. That proposal was eventually abandoned in favour of the present site and in 1901 the contract for the foundation was given out. It was not until a year before I arrived in the Colony that the superstructure was actually put in hand. The cost of the building has been some £5,000, or \$15,000. It has been carried out under the careful supervision of Mr. Fisher, executive engineer, who has had at different times to assist him Messrs. Wright and Little, assistant engineers. The plan was originally drawn out in consultation with Captain Barnes-Lawrence's predecessor, Captain Rumsey. The structure contains offices for the harbour master, assistant harbour master, marine surveyors, and the boarding officers. It also contains correspondence office, entry and clearance office, import and export office, and a junk office. Then there is the Marine Court, in which we are now assembled, and there is also a room for the examination of captains' and mates' certificates. There is a spare room, and there are quarters for the senior boarding officers, rooms for twenty-six boatmen, whom it is necessary should live on the premises. There is a somewhat important addition to that accommodation in the shape of a watch-tower from which it will be possible to observe everything going on in the harbour. It was not possible to do so in the old office, which was a very distinct disadvantage. The elevation of the building was designed by Mr. Fisher, and I have heard it said that its features are not commensurate with the importance of the work that will be carried out in it, but I do not think it is necessary that one should see from the face of the building the amount of work that is to be done in it. I prefer a building not to be too pretentious, and I think this building, thanks to Mr. Fisher, is in very good taste (applause). There is one part of it which I think I shall take care is not repeated in any public building that is erected while I remain in the Colony. I allude to the fact that the upper storeys are plastered. Plaster is really an imitation of stone and imitation is a sham, false in art, as it is in building. We have got in the Colony here plenty building material in the shape of natural granite and when we cannot afford to use that for building I think we should keep to the natural surface of the bricks and see exactly what the building is made of. But I need not dwell further on this point. I congratulate Captain Barnes-Lawrence on the fact that the change from the former office to this one is made in his time. It is, I know, cause for congratulation, as anything which helps the business of the mercantile community gives pleasure to our present harbour master (applause). I know that Captain Barnes-Lawrence is anxious to commence the work in his new premises and I think you are very

anxious to get to your old one, so I will not detain you any longer except to echo the hope expressed by Captain Barnes-Lawrence that the business of the department and consequently the business of the port will continue to increase to the same extent and even to a greater extent in the new building than it did in the old. I now, on the 16th day of July, 1906 formally declare this office to be open for the transaction of public business (applause).

On the call of the Harbour Master, three hearty cheers were given for His Excellency. After this the company inspected the new building and dispersed.

THE HO MIU LING HOSPITAL.

OPENED BY H.E. THE GOVERNOR.

The ceremony of opening the Ho Miu Ling Hospital, performed by His Excellency the Governor on the 21st July, was witnessed by a large number of ladies and gentlemen. The building was decorated with flags in honour of the event.

The Ho Miu Ling Hospital is built on Inland Lot No. 1,709, off Bonham Road, and west of Nethersole Hospital. The site is situated immediately to the east of Breezy Point, is an ideal one for purposes of a hospital, and was given to the trustees by the Government. The lot has wide roads on north and south sides, and Crown land adjoins on east and west, so that it is thoroughly isolated and open on all sides. The buildings were erected at the expense of Mrs. Wu Tung-fang, sister of Hon. Dr. Ho Kai, C.M.G., and have been so designed that direct natural ventilation is obtained into and through all the wards, and the requirements of light and air set forth in most recent ordinances have been exceeded. The site has been formed by building large stone retaining walls on the north and east sides and then necessary filling in was made to bring up to present levels. The entrance from the road is by an iron gate at the highest portion of the site, and a few feet below the level of the ground storey. The main buildings have wide verandahs along the whole of the front on each storey, upon which convalescent patients may bask in good weather, and from which verandahs views of the whole harbour and Kowloon may be obtained. The ground floor is taken up by two large general wards opening out of the central fancy tiled hall. These wards are well lighted and ventilated and accommodation is provided in the two wards for 24 beds. Central heating arrangements, conforming to the latest approved ideas, have been made in each ward. There are not any ceilings, and consequently rats and vermin cannot make their homes between floors and ceilings, to the detriment of the well-being of the occupants of the hospital. Bath rooms and lavatories are situated at the end of the wards but separated from same by thick walls. An easy stair leads to the first floor, which is divided into six private wards, wardmaster's room, doctors' room, operating room and three rooms for dressers and clerks. The roof is open without a ceiling, but the underside of purlins are lined to prevent fall of dust from the tiles: extra height is thus obtained and consequently coolness for the wards. The operating room has a skylight in addition to large windows to the verandah, and has a tiled floor, adequate water supply, and up to date fittings. The operating table has been selected by Dr. Gibson, M.D., and was presented to the hospital by the architect. The first floor wards have similar bath and lavatory arrangements as to ground floor, and special external sanitary steps communicate to these conveniences from the ground level. All the floors of the wards are of hardwood and are beeswaxed. To lavatories and bath rooms ferro concrete rendered floors have been used. From the main stairs landing a bridge leads across a wide open space to the students' room, and from the students' room access is obtained to the first roof over part of the servants' quarters, forming a terrace for use of the students. At the rear of the ground floor, and separated from same by a wide open space are the laundry, servants' room, mortuary, kitchen (with large furnaces and boilers and iron lined ceiling), and a room which may be used for disinfecting, etc. Standing alone on

the east of the servants' quarters is an isolation ward, with ventilated roof, large windows, and cement concrete floors. Under the eastern main ward is a storey which contains a well fitted up dispensary, dispenser's room, store room, attendants' room, and a large room will be suitable for a recreation and reading room for convalescents. Bath-room and lavatory accommodation is also provided to this storey. The whole of the site has been paved with concrete, rendered with cement, and the channels, downpipes, and drains are all of approved types. Plans and specifications were prepared and buildings carried out under the supervision of Mr. John Lemm, F.I.A.M.R. San. I., architect, No. 64, Queen's Road Central.

His Excellency, who was accompanied by his A. D. C., Captain Smith, was received by the Hon. Dr. Ho Kai, Dr. Pearce, and Dr. Mitchell, the superintendent, and escorted to the main entrance, where the formal proceedings took place. Dr. Pearce presided. Among those present were the Bishop of Victoria, Archdeacon Bannister, Revs. J. H. France, C. Bone, Barnett, C. H. Bickling, Stephens, Hon. Mr. W. Chatham, Hon. Dr. Clark, Hon. Mr. A. W. Brewin, Captain Anderson, Lieut. Sumner, Drs. Jordan, Forsyth, Mr. A. H. Crooks, Lady Villiers Hattor, Lady Piggott, Directors of the Tung Wah Hospital, and others.

Dr. Pearce, in opening the proceedings, said—Your Excellency, Ladies and Gentlemen.—We are met this afternoon to open the Ho Min Ling Hospital, an institution to be devoted from this day to the healing work in Hongkong of the London Missionary Society. Speaking for that Society's Medical Mission, which is worked in and from its affiliated hospitals, it is my duty and privilege to express on behalf of the management a due sense of the distinguished honour conferred on this assembly by your Excellency's presence. The many friends, Chinese and non Chinese, of this public charity keenly appreciate the personal interest and generous aid which your Excellency has seen fit to accord to its endeavours to alleviate suffering and to lessen the sum of human misery around us, and the practical sympathy shown in a gracious consent to open this new building will greatly cheer and encourage the medical superintendent, the committee, and the medical and nursing staff. The present is an occasion happily by no means the first in the history of these hospitals when the munificent generosity of a supporter has made possible the opening of a new building as an addition to the permanent plant. In calling attention as I now do to the name of this building, the Ho Min Ling Hospital, I would link the designation with the name of Madame Wu Ting-fang, wife of His Excellency the Chinese Minister to the United States of America, and sister of our distinguished fellow-citizen, the Honourable Dr. Ho Kai. This hospital is the gift of Madame Wu to this Medical Mission working in the place where the earlier years of her life were spent. Madame Wu is seeking to benefit the poor of Hongkong who stand in need of medical treatment which it is the purpose of this institution to provide. A further object of the hospital is to extend the knowledge of Western medicine—the generous donor thus becoming a helper of many in Hongkong and in China who may never see the inside or even the outside of this building. If the practical value of the Ho Min Ling Hospital, considered as an asset of the Mission, you will soon be able to form an opinion and I shall be surprised if that opinion does not accord with my own, that the new structure is admirably adapted to the purposes which it is intended to serve and reflects credit on the architect and the contractor. Apart, however, from its present and immediate use as a place for healing and for teaching, the Min Ling Hospital stands for a suggestive and instructive sign. An aspect of the benefaction which we do well to consider is that a Chinese lady of rank is here showing the way in a new order of things. In identifying herself with the forces that make for this new order Madame Wu is pointing us forward and giving us visions of the day when woman's healing work for woman will be a great factor in the social life of a great people. The time

is coming when the women of China will have their full share in all kindly ministries of healing that tend to sweeten and to brighten human life and to make it worth living. The old time word "benevolence", a keyword in Chinese ethics, is destined to undergo processes of appreciation, to take on new meanings, and to represent a living great reality when benevolence such as is here shown us becomes rooted and grounded in the minds of the women of China who have caught the spirit of Madame Wu. The true gauge and measure of value is found when the gift of this hospital is taken as a sign of the new times that are dawning for China and for the world. There are other acknowledgments that should be made gladly and gratefully. This hospital building stands on one of the best sites that could be chosen entirely suitable as respects proximity to the busy city lying immediately below, yet sufficiently removed to more quiet and other favourable conditions for the treatment of patients. This site is also a gift—the gift of the Government through His Majesty's Secretary of State for the Colonies, at the recommendation of Sir Henry Blake. It is satisfactory to remark that, as with so many buildings on these higher levels, the new hospital enhances as a thing of beauty the attractiveness of the road itself and lends a charm of distinction to this thoroughfare. The beauty of a hospital, however, consists in that it stands for philanthropy, unselfish regard for others, the going out of ourselves in order to bring the joy of health to many in pain and wretchedness. I trust that the work done here will justify the large-hearted generosity of Madame Wu and liberality of the Government. Before closing I would refer to the exceeding goodwill of the Tung Wah Hospital authorities shown to us on the occasion of this opening. The Tung Wah directors have helped to provide the fittings and furniture of this building; they have given us lamps for lighting the building—we are borrowing their light; so also are the ornamental tablets of felicitous and appropriate congratulatory sentences that adorn the entrance-hall. On these tablets, in graceful allusion to the donor of the building, coupled with pleasing reference to the elixir of immortality, we are reminded of the marvellous cures wrought by ancient worthies and bidden to expect the like marvels as the outcome of Madame Wu's philanthropy in the gift of this hospital. Time would fail me to mention other friends Chinese and non-Chinese, who have shown their regard for our work by what they have done at this hospital opening. We shall take care that thanks are given where they are so largely due. My last word is concerning the London Missionary Society. There is no one present who needs to be informed that bodily healing under the auspices of this Society and as part of its work is in fixed and certain relation to that Divine healing which the Society exists in order to make known. Its aim in these hospitals as in all its activities for doing good to men, is to glorify Almighty God, Who will, we believe, use this effort as a means to the higher help and salvation and health of human souls through the Divine Healer and Teacher, who took our nature upon Him and who went about doing good and healing all that were diseased. I will ask the Bishop of Victoria to lead us in prayer to Almighty God for the work of the hospital.

The Bishop of Victoria then offered prayer.

His Excellency the Governor said—My Lord Bishop, Ladies and Gentlemen.—Those among you who know the Alice Memorial Hospital well know the necessity that has grown up to improve the accommodation for the sick looked after by the London Missionary Society. Through no fault of the managers of the Alice Memorial Hospital that institution has ceased to be fit for medical and serious surgical cases. Buildings have grown up around it and the lower floors particularly have no longer the light and air necessary for a hospital. I have dwelt upon the fact of this new hospital being necessary in order to give improved accommodation because those of you who have studied the statistical abstract presented in the annual reports of these hospitals will see that additional accommodation was scarcely necessary. I would remind you that the Alice Memorial Hospital

was originally established in the year 1887, and I believe then, as now, had 33 beds. In 1893 the Nethersole Hospital was opened and provided 35 beds, and in 1904 the Alice Memorial was provided with some additional beds for special cases. Well, in those 19 years since the first opening of the Alice Memorial Hospital the average number of in-patients has been 729, whereas the actual number of in-patients for the year 1905 was 763, so that the additional accommodation provided has been greater than the increase in the number of in-patients. I am inclined to gather from that fact and from the fact that during the 19 years I have referred to the population of the Colony increased from 186,000 to 378,000, that is, more than double, that the general health of the Colony had improved in that time, and I find corroboration of this fact upon looking at the corresponding figures of the Government Civil Hospital. In the last ten years the average number of patients in the Government Civil Hospital—in-patients—has been 2,752. In that period the population has increased from 240,000 to 378,000, that is, has become half as much again as it was, and in the year 1905 the number of in-patients was 2,704, or considerably below the average of the last ten years. Further corroboration of this idea, that the health of the Colony has greatly improved in late years, is derived from the fact that in the year which this hospital was opened—the year 1887—the death-rate per thousand was 23.59. Last year it was 17.8. But it is not right possibly to take individual years, so that I will give you the average figures for the four successive periods of five years referring to the same time. From 1886 to 1890, the years before the plague was introduced, the death rate was 27.78. From 1891 to 1895, which included the first and worst plague year, the death rate was 23.89. In the years from 1896 to 1900 it was 22.8, and in the years from 1901 to 1905 it was 20.28, a gradual and steady improvement. Possibly the ladies and gentlemen here may think that this is not very relevant to the purpose for which I came, but I have been looking forward to an opportunity to making these remarks in public because I thought it was advisable that they should be made. Hongkong still retains in English its old reputation of being a very unhealthy place, and that reputation is bad for the Colony. It is to a certain extent due to the highly admirable desire of the Press to lose no opportunity of impressing the Government with the necessity of measures intended to still more better the health conditions of the place, but it also to a certain extent has the effect—the constant crying down of the health of the Colony—has also to a certain extent the effect of deterring people from visiting us, which is a bad effect. Referring to my business here to-day it seems to me most suitable that the donor of the present hospital should be sister of Dr. Ho Kai, who in memory of his wife established the original Alice Memorial Hospital which has done so much good, and I fully appreciate the remarks, as we all do, made by Dr. Pearce, with regard to the gratitude due to Madame Wu Ting-fang for her generous gift. As regards the gratitude of the community to the architect I shall be in a better position to judge when I have seen the interior of the building. Dr. Pearce dealt fully with the question of the exterior and the only thing I wish to add to what he said is that I should rather that the excellent stone or sound bricks of which it is constructed were not covered up with plaster (laughter). With regard to the medical work done by the Alice Memorial and Nethersole Hospitals, I am scarcely competent to speak, but I know that the staff, Drs. Mitchell, Gibson and Sebree, enjoy the confidence, which I know they deserve, of the community. There is one point not dwelt upon by Dr. Pearce which entitles the London Missionary Society to special credit from the community, and that is the steady support it has given to the Hongkong College of Medicine, which is turning out some useful doctors who are working in this Colony and elsewhere. No doubt had the Director of the College, Mr. May, been here, he would have dwelt on this point more fully, as I know his great admiration for the work done by the London Missionary Society. Finally, as regards the religious

work, it would not be fit for me to speak, for reasons which you understand, but I think I shall be echoing the sentiments of everyone here when I say that these institutions established, supported and maintained with lofty and high aims to benefit mankind are to the glory of God (applause).

Dr. Mitchell then presented His Excellency with a silver key, which he turned in the lock and said—I now, on this 20th day of July, 1906, declare the Ho Min Ling Hospital open (applause).

The company then proceeded to inspect the building, and were afterwards entertained to refreshments, generously supplied by Mr. Weissmann as a contribution to the hospital.

ITALIAN CONVENT PRIZE DISTRIBUTION.

H.E. the Governor presided at the annual distribution of prizes at the Italian Convent on the 19th July, when the large gathering present were entertained at one of the concerts given by the pupils. The time and attention which the Sisters must have bestowed on their charges to produce such an excellent programme as was witnessed yesterday has been commented on before in these columns, and certainly it has not been lacking since last prize-giving.

Miss M. Santos delivered the following address:—Your Excellency, Your Lordship, Reverend Fathers, Ladies and Gentlemen, I am honoured by the Reverend Mother Superior in being asked to tender you her genuine thanks for your great goodness in sacrificing your time, this treasure of matchless value, in order to honour this occasion with your benevolent presence so that we, children deprived of experience, may see by your action that you want to encourage us to love study, to become useful to our families, our country and our neighbours. Your goodness shall always be remembered by the Reverend Mother Superior, by the Sisters, by our parents and by us. Indeed, all these good friends of youth who have procured for us a solid Christian education will certainly receive many blessings from the Almighty God. Your Excellency, Your Lordship, Reverend Fathers, Ladies and Gentlemen, we are going to sing, play, etc., and your indulgence we beg because we are well aware of our inability. Renewing our thanks I beg to withdraw.

The programme, which was as under, was then proceeded with:—

Action song (5 children), accompanied by Miss M. Osete; song "L'Eco di Napoleone", Miss R. Elizaga; recitation "The Endless Story", Miss C. Peterson; song "I'd like to be a Soldier", Master A. Hyndman; Humorous song "Here is the School, etc.", Miss E. Angell; battle drill (18 children), accompanied by Miss E. Felices; duet "La Festa del Villaggio", Miss B. Brewster and Miss M. E. Gutierrez; song "La Marinarese", by 14 children, accompanied by Miss E. Felices; recitation "The Land of my Birth", Miss B. Gutierrez; Gran Coro "Le Vacanze", by the pupils, accompanied by Miss E. Angell and Miss I. Sison.

The Rev. Father do Maria, before reading the report of the Inspector of Schools, on the year's work at the Italian Convent, thanked His Excellency, His Lordship Bishop Pozzoni, and the ladies and gentlemen present for the honour of their presence at the annual prize distribution. His Excellency had shown such consistent support to all educational institutions in the Colony that it was so really necessary for him to enlarge on the fact. Such support was of the utmost value, and very highly appreciated by the responsible individuals in the successful management of the schools in Hongkong. Speaking on behalf of the principals of the schools under his charge, he wished to avail himself of this public occasion to record his sincere thanks for His Excellency's help and encouragement towards the Catholic schools in Hongkong. He had no desire to unduly prolong the proceedings, but wished to remark in connection with Mr. Irving's report that the Inspector had classified the Italian Convent as "thoroughly efficient", and recommended for it the highest grant of the code.

His Excellency then distributed the prizes, after which he said—My Lord Bishop, Ladies and

Gentlemen,—I am sure you will join with me in expressing the pleasure we feel that the Rev. Mother Superior has enabled us to be present to-day. I think you will also wish to thank with me the Sisters and girls for the very pleasing performance which we witnessed this afternoon. I congratulate the school on the very favourable report furnished by the Inspector of Schools. In addition to saying that the school was recommended for the highest grant, he said the interest displayed in the study of hygiene was very great, and with regard to arithmetic the papers sent in by the senior classes were excellent. These are beautiful subjects, and according to one of the songs that the girls sang, will make life sweet. The Inspector of Schools pointed out, as it was his duty to, various weak points. He mentioned that the small girls helped each other at the examination (laughter). They must not do that again. He said more importance should be given to the details of geography, and I am sure the Sisters will bear that in mind. He also pointed out that the spelling of the small girls was not as good as it might be. That is not perhaps surprising seeing how small they are. A more serious fault mentioned by Mr. Irving is the tendency he noticed in several subjects to learn the lessons by heart without fully understanding their meaning. Undoubtedly the training of the memory is a very important part of education, but it should rather be stored with facts than with words—facts to be understood as well as memorised. It is no doubt easier to learn words than facts, especially if the words are placed in rhymic sequence. A good idea of teaching history and various other subjects was by putting them into rhyme. It is now and then that where facts are remembered by the condition and sound of words describing them, rather than by the meaning of those words, those facts are not very likely to be understood, and facts not understood are not worth remembering. I am told there is a girl here who knows the whole of the text of the Government book on hygiene by heart. I do not wish to discourage her zeal, as I think it is possible she might have spent some time in learning this, but she might have taken a little more time in understanding the facts rather than learning the words. Memory is undoubtedly a great gift of God, but we must look upon reason, which is peculiar only to man, as a greater gift. Memory and reason are not antagonistic, but it is a notable fact that memory very often does not go with the greatest power of reasoning. I think it is possible to account for that in this way: if a person has a good memory, any facts he gets hold of he puts into his head, knowing that he will be able to draw them out one by one if he wants them. If he has not a good memory he knows it is necessary before putting them away in the storehouse of the brain to extract lessons from them so as not to forget the facts—perhaps lessons which are the essence of them. In other words, power of memory often weakens power of generalisation. It is the power of generalisation which I hope the big girls will remember so that in another year there will be no suggestion in the report of the Inspector of Schools that more facts are remembered than are understood. Trusting to my memory, which is not possibly a good one, I think it was at this school last year I spoke on the subject of English composition. For that reason I propose to give my prize this year to the girl who has done best in this subject. There seems to be some doubt as to whom that girl is, but I am told if I give the prize to Miss Enriqueta Felices I shall not be far wrong (prize handed to winner amidst great applause). Before I sit down I want to mention the pleasure it gives me to see how in this school every effort is made to give effect to my wishes that hygiene should be thoroughly well taught and learned. I should like to mark my appreciation of this by giving a small library of hygiene works to the Sister whom I know has been very largely instrumental in the teaching of this subject.

Sister Melania was loudly cheered as she accepted His Excellency's gift. Then followed the National Anthem, which terminated the proceedings.

Light refreshments were dispensed before the visitors departed.

KOWLOON GRAMMAR SCHOOL PRIZE DISTRIBUTION.

On the 20th July Commodore Williams distributed the prizes won by pupils of the Kowloon Grammar School. Notwithstanding the wet weather there was a fair number of visitors, and the school was decorated for the occasion.

Mr. H. W. Ray, the principal, read the annual report. He said:—Commodore Williams, Ladies and Gentlemen,—I have great pleasure in presenting to you my first annual report of the progress of the Kowloon Grammar School, but before I do so I should like to thank the friends who have braved the weather, and Commodore Williams for the honour he has conferred on us in attending to distribute the prizes. This school was opened on September 1st with 20 pupils. Before the end of the month this number had increased to 30, and by the half-year there were 49 names on the books. There are now 42. This good result I attribute to two main causes. First, the hearty support I have received from the scholars and their parents in recommending the school to their friends, and, secondly, the loyal and unstinted co-operation of my assistant teachers. Throughout the year my right-hand supporter has been Fran Reimers, in whose capable hands the German and kindergarten classes have made very great progress. In the early part of the year I had also the help of Miss A. L. Robinson, of Melbourne University, who left in January to our great regret to take up a more lucrative position. For the past nine months the lower classes have been under the charge of Mr. R. C. Barlow, who both in and out of school has rendered excellent service. Under the circumstances it is not surprising that I have to report excellent all-round progress. Five pupils have been entered for the Oxford local examinations; one for senior, one for junior and one for preliminary, and I propose to send up at least two for London matriculation in January. In September a new wing will have been added to our school premises, and in addition to the present staff I have secured the services of two trained English masters, both of whom are graduates of London University. Thus with a staff of five English masters it will be possible to give students the choice of the classical or modern side of the school as at home. I also want to thank Messrs. Matthaey, Logan, Ho Tung, Ho Kom-tong and Ah Wei for contributions to the prize fund.

The Commodore, after distributing the prizes, remarked that his task had given him great pleasure. He had not been long in the Colony and hardly knew of the existence of any school at Kowloon but the one in Robinson Road where his coolies took him, hence the reason of his late appearance. It was a pleasure to him to present prizes to those who had won them, but he reminded the unsuccessful pupils that there were prizes other than those won at school. He remembered that some of those who in his own schooldays were not at top had also drawn prizes in life, and some big ones. Those boys who have come second, third or lower down, if they stick to their work will pick up some of the good things in life. They should not be down on their luck because they have not got prizes on this occasion, as there were many things in store if they were diligent. He was pleased to see that a prize had been awarded the best sportsman. Sport was a very good thing and necessary to health, as it kept boys "fit", and when the time came for work they could really devote themselves to it. Those who worked hard were generally those who played hard. He found in his service that a ship whose crew contained a number of sports was the reliable vessel when work was required. His advice to everybody was, if you are going to win a prize, don't work in school when you should be out taking exercise. The main spirit and feeling of fatigue was one of the most pleasurable things in this world. In conclusion, the Commodore expressed the hope that the scholars would have a good holiday, and that he would have the pleasure of meeting them again next year.

A musical programme, containing some very pleasing items, was then gone through, and closed the proceedings.

SUPREME COURT.

Friday, July 13th.

IN SUMMARY JURISDICTION.

BEFORE MR. A. G. WISE (PUISNE JUDGE).

CONFUSION WORSE CONFOUNDED.

Leung Tak said An King-tsung to recover \$700 damages sustained to the plaintiff's cargo boat by reason of the negligent navigation of the defendant's steam launch *Lee Shing*.

Mr. J. B. Gardiner (of Mr. O. K. Thomson's office) appeared for the plaintiff, Mr. H. K. Holmes for the defendant, and Mr. F. P. Hett (of Messrs. Brutton and Hett) for a third party.

Mr. Hett applied for an adjournment as things were in a muddle.

His Lordship—A lot of cases are in a muddle now.

Mr. Hett—But I am afraid confusion is worse than ever in this, as my client died the other day.

Mr. Gardiner—Then you have no *locus standi*.

His Lordship—At any rate I cannot see you, can I?

The case was adjourned till Friday. His Lordship remarking that he would see whether Mr. Hett would resurrect his man or not.

NEARLY A SQUATTER.

Tsang Sang, administrator of the estate of Tsang Chun deceased, sued Shin Tung to regain possession of premises known as No. 41, Hok Un Kok, Hunghom.

Mr. Otto Kong Sing appeared for the plaintiff.

Plaintiff said the property was his by inheritance, while defendant's contention was that the plaintiff's father made him a present of it.

His Lordship (to plaintiff)—How long is it since he paid you any rent?

Plaintiff—Over eight or nine years.

His Lordship—He must be very nearly a squatter by this time.

After hearing the evidence his Lordship ordered that the house be delivered over to the plaintiff.

Tuesday, July 17th.

IN APPELLATE JURISDICTION.

BEFORE THE FULL COURT.

A LAND COURT APPEAL.

The Attorney-General (instructed by Mr. F. B. L. Bowley, Crown Solicitor), appeared to make formal application for leave to appeal against a finding of the Land Court with reference to Claim S. Survey District No 2 and in the matter of the New Territories Land Court Ordinance 1900 to 1904.

The respondent, To King, did not appear.

The Puisne Judge—I don't think he will ever appear.

The Attorney-General said that was a formal application to their Lordships for leave to adduce evidence on behalf of the Crown against the finding of the Land Court with regard to land in the New Territory claimed by one To King. Their Lordships would observe that the motion asked for permission to adduce further evidence either orally or by affidavit.

This was with a view of giving their Lordships evidence of the law of China with regard to the granting of land. He intended to re-state the point decided in the Chung Shan case.

The application was granted.

Thursday, July 19th.

IN CRIMINAL JURISDICTION.

BEFORE SIR FRANCIS PIGGOTT (CHIEF JUSTICE).

The Criminal Sessions for July were opened before the Chief Justice. The calendar contained four charges, incriminating nine persons.

ARMED ROBBERY.

Six Chinese named Lam Sze, Lam Yau, Chung Shing, Lam Yat, Lam Shun (a), and

Lam Shun (b) were indicted on charges of robbery committed at Kowloon city. There was a charge against Chu Hing, but the Attorney-General refused to indict him.

The Attorney-General (Sir Henry Berkeley, K.C.) prosecuted, but prisoners, who pleaded not guilty, were undefended.

The following jury were empanelled: Messrs. K. N. Mody (foreman), D. Tolan, Robert Stevenson, H. G. Simm, R. Macpherson, John Wells and T. Blair.

The Attorney-General said the prisoners were charged with being members of a gang of armed robbers who broke into two houses near Kowloon city at night and after threatening and terrifying the inhabitants committed the robberies, stealing clothing and money to the amount of \$150. All the prisoners were arrested within a short time after the occurrence and upon all of them were found articles for the possession of which they could not give a satisfactory account. Those articles were subsequently identified by the people whose houses had been broken into that night. Two of the prisoners were recognised as being with the gang of eleven men who committed the successive robberies of the two houses. The second count on which they were charged was being in possession of property well knowing it to have been stolen.

The first witness, who could not recognise any of the defendants, spoke to being awakened one night about six weeks ago. There were robbers in the house. They tied him up, beat him, piled a lot of clothing in the middle of the floor and set fire to it, smashed the crockery and cooking utensils, and decamped with money to the amount of \$150 and some of his clothing.

A cousin of the previous witness said the robbers stabbed him in the back.

There being no stolen property found on the first and second defendants, they were discharged.

The third defendant called a woman to give evidence on his behalf. He created some amusement when he asked the interpreter to advise him what questions to put to the witness. Afterwards he told the woman to tell his Lordship something in his favour. She said she knew he was a good man and had a wife and a son. When the witness failed to identify the jacket which he said was his defendant burst out "What an old fool you are. That is my jacket." The woman then said "I believe it is his jacket" (laughter). Defendant again exclaimed "What an old silly woman you are. Who don't you tell his Lordship that I am not a thief?"

The Attorney-General did not press the charge against the sixth defendant, who was also discharged.

The jury found the third prisoner not guilty and returned a verdict of guilty against the other two.

His Lordship passed sentence of five years imprisonment with hard labour.

ALLEGED MANSLAUGHTER.

Yeung San was arraigned on a charge of manslaughter.

The Attorney-General prosecuted and prisoner was undefended.

The following jury were empanelled: Messrs. F. A. Mackintosh (foreman), W. D. Kraft, James Guy, W. F. Bassford, E. N. Haukey, Charles Crispin and James Lee.

The Attorney-General opened the case for the prosecution. He said that the charge arose out of an alleged act of carelessness on the part of the prisoner which caused the death of a man named Yun Shun, who was one of the crew of a fishing boat at anchor off the east end of Stonecutter's Island on 23rd June. There were three men in the boat. The master was in the stern, another was in the waist and deceased was standing at the bow. While engaged in hauling up the net, they saw a large three-masted junk sailing towards them. Prisoner was steering the junk. There was a man standing on the bow, whether on the lookout or not was not known, and after the collision he disappeared. The people on the boat shouted to those on the junk to keep off, but no notice was taken, although the witnesses would say they heard the man at the bow call out to the prisoner. The junk kept on its course and struck the fishing boat, toppling the deceased into the water. The junk was towing a small boat and the rope getting fouled the fishing boat would

have been swamped had the occupants not cut the rope. Meanwhile the man who had fallen into the water was drowning. After some time the junk returned to the scene of the collision and the men looked for the deceased. His body was recovered the day afterwards. The whole question was whether the prisoner was guilty of such negligence as to render him responsible for the death of that man.

After hearing evidence, the jury returned a verdict of not guilty, and the prisoner was acquitted.

AN UNNATURAL FATHER.

Samuel Martin Payne, who described himself as a Portuguese, was charged with a criminal offence committed on his daughter, aged six years.

The Attorney-General prosecuted.

The following jury were empanelled: Messrs. H. Ehmer (foreman), J. E. Gresson, C. T. B. Haesloop, H. A. Seth, D. Tolan, T. W. Robertson and F. W. Warre.

After a lengthy hearing prisoner was found guilty and sentenced to imprisonment for life.

Friday July 20th.

IN CRIMINAL JURISDICTION.

BEFORE THE CHIEF JUSTICE (SIR FRANCIS PIGGOTT).

The Criminal Sessions were resumed.

GRIEVOUS BODILY HARM.

Leung Lung, charged with wounding with intent to do grievous bodily harm, pleaded not guilty.

The Attorney-General prosecuted.

The following jury were empanelled: Messrs. W. D. Kraft (foreman), C. E. Warren, H. Ehmer, A. A. Meye, C. T. Haesloop, F. H. J. Baker and H. W. Page.

This was the case in which a fortune-teller was alleged to have attempted to murder his wife or concubine. As the Attorney-General stated in opening, the woman's story was that she was living in the same house as prisoner. On the night in question she was awakened from her sleep by finding the prisoner cutting her throat. She managed after a struggle to escape and run to a neighbouring place for assistance. When the police entered the house the man had gone. The defendant's story was that he was attacked by the woman and her lover, and only defended himself.

The woman said her husband was at sea. The defendant on the night in question sat on her chest and attempted to cut her throat. He asked where her money was, and she pointed to where it lay.

A man to whom the woman went for assistance denied that he had any relations with her and denied that the defendant's attack was due to his being jealous of witness.

The jury found prisoner guilty and his Lordship passed sentence of two years imprisonment without hard labour.

ALLEGED ACCEPTANCE OF BRIBES.

Rabeem Bux, an Indian watchman in the employ of the Sanitary Board, was charged with accepting \$33.37 as bribes from a contractor of No. 8, Upper Rutter Street, on diverse dates.

The Crown Solicitor, Mr. F. B. L. Bowley, prosecuted, and Mr. C. F. Dixon (of Mr. John Hastings' office) appeared for the defendant.

Mr. Bowley stated that the defendant, who was a public servant, was charged with obtaining bribes on 32 different occasions, the earliest date being October 4th last year, and the latest July 8th this year. Defendant was employed by the Sanitary Department as a watchman on the Peak district, and his principal duties consisted of supervising the work of the conservancy and scavenging contractors. On October 1st last year a new sub-contractor was engaged by the conservancy contractor to undertake the conservancy work at the Peak. On that day the sub-contractor went up to the Peak and saw defendant at his quarters. They had a conversation, in the course of which the defendant told the sub-contractor that the former contractor paid him some money every month, and said

that whoever took it on must pay him \$40 a month. The sub-contractor naturally demurred to this, but the defendant pressed him to pay the amount, and being afraid of unpleasant consequences if he did not comply, from that time he paid the defendant \$40 a month in installments of different sums. Shortly after the payment on June 18th the sub-contractor would tell the Court that he heard the Sanitary Commission now sitting had seized the books of certain contractors; that he became afraid and refused to give defendant any more money. Defendant then sent several messages to the sub-contractor telling him that he must pay the money or he would get into trouble. During the period from October 1st last year until the end of June this year, the defendant did not on one single occasion charge the sub-contractor or his employees with neglecting their work or creating a nuisance, but on July 5th, finding his money stopped, he arrested two of the sub-contractor's employees for an offence, charged them before the Court, and they were fined \$7 each. Circumstances relating to the previous payments having come to the knowledge of the police, it was decided to lay a trap for the defendant, and on July 8th the sub-contractor was supplied with four \$10 bank notes, of which Inspector Hanson had taken the numbers. With these notes in his possession, he met the defendant in Connaught Road, and while walking and talking with him the pair were being watched by Detective Sergeant Mortimer O'Sullivan. At a given signal the detective arrested the defendant, who at the moment of his arrest put his hand in his pocket and dropped the four notes on the ground. On the same day the police took certain books belonging to the sub-contractor in which entries were found relating to the payments in question.

After hearing part of the evidence his Worship adjourned the case.

HONGKONG HIGH-LEVEL TRAMWAYS CO., LTD.

An extraordinary general meeting of shareholders in the Hongkong High-level Tramways Co., Ltd., was held at the registered office of the Company, Alexandra Buildings, at noon on July 14th, for the purpose of passing the resolutions hereafter mentioned, pursuant to the order dated March 28th, 1906, made by the Supreme Court in original jurisdiction in action No. 371 of 1905. Mr. H. Humphreys presided, and there were also present—Hon. Mr. W. J. Gresson and Messrs. J. A. Jupp, G. C. Moxon, H. P. Whit, T. F. Hough, E. Seth, R. Harding, D. E. Clark, T. S. Forrest, Lau Chu pak and J. M. Wong.

Mr. JUPP read the notice convening the meeting, and

The CHAIRMAN said:—Gentlemen,—The objects for which this meeting has been convened are:—(1) To rescind the fourth special resolution passed and confirmed on the 3rd and 20th of June last year and all agreements (particularly the agreement of the 18th Oct., 1905, made between this company and its liquidators of the one part and the Peak Tramways Company, Limited, of the other part) entered into thereunder. (2) To approve the draft agreement (which has been prepared by the Company's solicitors (Messrs. Ewens, Harton and Harding), which I will read to you in due course, and which if necessary Mr. Harding, who is present for the purpose, will explain. The fourth special resolution in question was as follows:—"That the Liquidators be empowered to sell to the 'Peak Tramways Company, Limited', the undertaking of this Company at the price of \$200 per share, either in cash or shares of the Peak Tramways Company, Limited, at the option of shareholders of this company and to enter into all necessary agreements to that effect." As you are aware, in consequence of the action instituted by Mr. D. E. Brown, one of the late shareholders in the company, the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Hongkong held that the fourth special resolution which I have just read was invalid and that the other three special resolutions could not be given effect to in the absence of such special resolution in lieu of the said fourth special resolution as should expressly recognise the rights of dissentient shareholders, and the Chief Justice

granted an injunction restraining the company and its liquidators from carrying any of the resolutions into effect until they complied with the terms above indicated. The effect of passing and confirming the resolutions which I shall shortly put to you will be that such shareholders in this company as desire to receive in exchange for their respective holdings therein shares in the Peak Tramways Co. will be enabled to do so, and that those who desire to receive cash will be at liberty to give notices of dissent under sections 201 and 202 of the Hongkong Companies Ordinance 1865, after giving which they may either take what the liquidators will offer them (viz., \$200 per share and in addition the proportion of unpaid dividend thereon earned up to the 18th October, 1905), or if such dissenting shareholders are not satisfied with this offer they will be at liberty to proceed to arbitration in accordance with the law. With the above information, I think I have satisfactorily explained the position, but at the same time should any shareholder have any question to ask I will do my best to answer same.

No questions being asked, the CHAIRMAN read the agreement, after which he proposed the passing of the first resolution, reading "That the special resolution being the fourth in number passed and confirmed at extraordinary general meetings of this Company held on the 3rd and 20th days of June, 1905 respectively, together with all agreements entered into thereunder and particularly the agreement in writing bearing date the 18th day of October, 1905, made between this Company and its Liquidators (John D. Humphreys & Son) of the one part and the Peak Tramways Company, Limited, of the other part be and the same are hereby rescinded."

Mr. WHITE seconded, and the resolution was carried.

The CHAIRMAN then proposed that the second resolution be passed. It reads:—"That the draft agreement submitted to this meeting and expressed to be made between this Company and its Liquidators of the one part and the Peak Tramways Company, Limited, of the other part be and the same is hereby approved and that the said Liquidators be and they are hereby authorised pursuant to Sections 201 and 202 of the Companies Ordinance, 1865, to enter into a Agreement with the said 'Peak Tramways Company, Limited', in the terms of the said draft and to carry the same into effect with such (if any) modification as they may think expedient."

Mr. HO GH seconded, and the proposition was carried unanimously.

The CHAIRMAN—That concludes the business of the meeting, gentlemen. There will be another meeting later on, of which due notice will be given.

S. C. FARNHAM, BOYD & CO., LTD.

(IN LIQUIDATION)

The following report of the Liquidation is to be presented to-day (July 17th) at the Sixth Annual General Meeting of Shareholders, at Shanghai:

In accordance with the resolutions passed at the Extraordinary General Meeting of the Shareholders of S. C. Farnham, Boyd & Co., Ltd., held on the 23rd January, 1906, which were subsequently confirmed at a meeting held on the 14th February, 1906, the Liquidators appointed have carried on the business until the close of the financial year of the Company, viz., the 31st April, 1906, and have now pleasure in submitting to you their Report, with Statement of Accounts.

The Net Profits for the year ended on the 30th April, 1906, including the amount brought forward from last year and after paying all charges and allowing for all known liabilities, amount to Tls. 445,597.98.

After allowing for an interim dividend of 4 per cent. on 55,200 shares paid in January this year, which absorbed Tls. 220,800, there remains for distribution the sum of Tls. 224,797.98. This amount the Liquidators recommend to be dealt with as follows, viz.:—

A final dividend of Tls. 4 per share ... 220,800.00
Amount to be carried to new account ... 8,997.98

Tls. 224,797.98

Mr. W. J. Gresson resigned his position as Liquidator on the 4th May last on leaving Shanghai. Mr. J. D. Thorburn, owing to illness, resigned his position as Auditor on the 22nd May last, and Mr. J. E. Bingham, of Messrs. Lowe & Bingham, has been invited to fill the vacant place.

The accounts have been audited by Messrs. Geo. D. Scott and J. E. Bingham.

The Liquidators trust to be able to place their final Report before the Shareholders, as required by the Companies' ordinances, at an extraordinary meeting to be held some time in August next.

In accordance with the Resolutions passed at the Extraordinary Meeting of the shareholders of S. C. Farnham, Boyd & Co., Ltd., held on the 23rd January, 1906, which were subsequently confirmed at a meeting held on the 14th February, 1906, the Liquidators appointed have caused the registration of the new Company, named "The Shanghai Dock and Engineering Company, Limited", and transferred on the 1st May last the Assets and Liabilities of the old to the new Company,

PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT.

8th January, 1906.	Tls.
To 4 per cent. Interim Dividend on 55,200 shares	220,800.00
30th April, 1906.	
To Balance	224,797.98
	Tls. 445,597.98
1st May, 1905.	Tls.
By Balance carried forward	34,924.24
30th April, 1906.	
By Transfer from Working Account	410,673.74
	Tls. 445,597.98

BALANCE SHEET.

Capital Account.

ASSETS.

30th April, 1906.	Tls.
To OLD DOCK:	
"Old Dock" Property, with Boilers, Pumps, New Moorings, Shear Legs, Launching Ways, Capstans, etc., 16m. 5f. 2l. 5h...	691,550.00
Office Building, Godowns, Machine shops and Dwelling Houses, including Ground 3m. 7f. 6l. 4h.	110,850.00
To COSMOPOLITAN DOCK:	
"Cosmopolitan Dock" Property, with Pump-house, Pumps, Boilers, etc., including Ground, 45m. 2f. 1l. 1h.	554,000.00
Land, including Bunding Wharves and Wall 107m. 5f. 8l. 6h.	94,000.00
Machine Shops, Godowns, Office and Dwelling Houses,	100,300.00
108 Chinese Houses, including Ground, 9m. 5f. 0l. 8h.	23,000.00
To INTERNATIONAL DOCK:	
"International Dock" Wharves and Bunding	588,500.00
Land, 125m. 8f. 1l. 3h.	90,479.00
Buildings	78,509.00
To TUNKADOO DOCK:	
"Tunkadoo Dock" Property, with Buildings Boilers, Pumps, Shear Legs, etc., 35m. 6f. 9l. 5h.	178,500.00
To NEW DOCK:	
"New Dock" Property, with Buildings, Boilers, Pumps, Shear Legs, etc., 48m. 6f. 4l. 3h.	671,498.00
To ENGINE WORKS, FOOTUNG:	
Property with Buildings, Shear Legs and Railway, 54m. 3f. 1l. 8h.	365,014.00
To SUNDRIES:	
Machinery and Tools at Five Docks and Engine Works. ...	1,103,097.80
s.s. Samshui, 3 small Steamers, Launches, Pile Drivers Pontoons, Steam Dredgers, Shear Legs, Dock Plant, Office and Drawing Office Material and Furniture	354,849.92
Stock of Material on hand, and unfinished work less Liabilities.	1,225,950.25
Sundry Debtors	397,499.25
Shares in Public Companies	17,417.24

Cash in Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation... 229,948.69
Cash in hand... 3,574.50

Tls... 6,884,587.75

LIABILITIES.

30th April, 1906.

Tls.

By Shareholders for 55,200
Shares of Tls. 100 fully
paid up... 5,520,000.00
Reserve Fund... 1,000,000.00
Uncollected Dividends... 5,040.00
Sundry Creditors... 134,749.77
Balance from Profit
and Loss Account... 224,797.98

Tls. 6,884,587.75

E. & O. E.

Shanghai, 30th June, 1906.

JOHN PRENTICE,

H. V. RUCKER,

C. J. DUDGEON,

Liquidators.

JAS. H. OSBORNE,

Secretary.

We have examined the Books, Vouchers, Share and Mortgage securities and other documents of the Company and have satisfied ourselves as to the accuracy of the Bank Balance. The accuracy of the Stock and certain Trade Expense have been certified as correct by the Liquidators. We are of opinion that the above Balance Sheet is a full and fair Balance Sheet properly drawn up so as to exhibit a true and correct view of the Company's affairs.

GEO. D. SCOTT,

J. E. BINGHAM, F.I.A.N.Z.

Auditors.

Shanghai, June 30th, 1906.

MURDER ON THE WEST RIVER.

FOREIGN PASSENGER SLAIN BY PIRATES.

The Canton Daily News published the following "Express" on Saturday:—Yesterday (July 13th) at 7 p.m., while 50 miles below Samshui, the s.s. *Sainam* was plundered by river pirates. The desperadoes came on board as passengers and at Kautong surrounded the saloon while the passengers were at dinner. Missionary Dr. Macdonald, who was a passenger, was shot dead on the spot, and the Captain was severely wounded. The Chief Engineer took refuge in the engine-room, where he hid behind the boilers, from where he was later rescued, badly injured by the intense heat. Those of the native passengers who offered resistance were killed by blows on the head, and four Indian watchmen (ship's guard) were also badly injured. The whole ship was plundered, doors broken open, trunks and furniture smashed. The ship presents a horrible spectacle. After completing their dastardly work the pirates dropped anchor, and left the ship by Chinese junks that were awaiting them. The crews of these junks were entirely naked and painted in fantastic colours.

H. M. gunboat *Moorhen*, stationed at Samshui left at once for the scene of the robbery. Commissioner of Customs von Lindholm at Samshui at once wired details of the atrocity to H. E. the Viceroy and the Commissioner of Customs at Canton, and sent to-day by first train a deputy to communicate with the authorities. At once upon receiving the news of the outrage Mr. von Lindholm sent word to the Chinese Admiral in Samshui, who considered his full duty done by sending a mandarin of lower degree to investigate the matter. The *Sainam* is expected to arrive here at noon to-day, carrying the remains of Dr. Macdonald. Dr. Macdonald leaves a wife who resides at Wuchow, where the deceased was for years one of the most respected and popular residents.

The funeral of the Rev. Dr. Macdonald, M.D., was to take place on Saturday afternoon about 2 o'clock.

Captain Joslin, who was brought to Hongkong on July 14th, is at present in the Government Civil Hospital, where he was successfully operated upon on Sunday by Drs. Bell and Koch. It will be remembered that the Captain was shot in the stomach, and the bullet has been extracted by the medical men. His progress towards recovery is regarded as satisfactory.

Three of the injured Indians returned to Hongkong yesterday afternoon, and were conveyed to the Government Civil Hospital.

VICEBOY REMARKS "I TOLD YOU SO."

H. E. Viceroy Shun was, like our correspondent, away from headquarters when the news came of the piratical seizure of the s.s. *Sainam*. His Excellency received a cablegram at Whampoa, advising him of the occurrence, and he at once telegraphed to H. B. M. Consul-General at Canton.

Our correspondent ascertained the contents of the message to be as follows:—

"(I) Received a telegram stating that the s.s. *Sainam* had been pirated, the captain and crew wounded, and doctor killed. Deeply grieved to hear of it. Have given instructions to both civil and military officials to capture the robbers and recover the stolen goods. Deputed Wen Taotai and Kung Taotai to call on you to investigate the matter.

"The Kwangtung Province has always been infested by robbers and pirates. Year before last when I was in Wuchow I proposed to Consul Wei [Wilkinson] to place Chinese soldiers on board of all foreign vessels and also to have braves to search all the passengers' luggage before the steamers leave port. This to afford entire protection to foreign vessels.

"Consul Wei [Wilkinson] refused to consent to my proposal. Your Honour is well acquainted with the conditions in Kwangtung, and I sincerely trust you will thoroughly discuss the matter with Taotais Wen and Kung, and devise some means of preventing such sad affairs in future. I hope you will entertain my former proposals, which I believe would afford great protection."

The Canton Daily News, as the result of an interview with Chief Engineer Seggie, was able to add the following to its first report:—

"The pirates are supposed to have come on board at Kautong partly, partly at Kunchuk, and some might have come already at Canton. They had no rifles, only revolvers; they fired recklessly, but were very bad shots. We had our dinner finished, the Captain, Mr. Joslin, Dr. Macdonald and myself were standing outside my cabin door when we heard some shouting. We turned round to help the Indian watchman, thinking some Chinaman run amok, when a crowd of Chinese rushed on us firing revolvers. Then we realised that it was piracy. We tried to get to the wheelhouse for the arms, but were stopped by another crowd of the pirates, which came from the starboard side, also firing with revolvers. We rushed through them into the saloon. As we got in, the Captain said that he was shot, and laid down on the sofa. Dr. Macdonald attending to him. I closed the doors and the windows on the starboard side and crossed over to the port side to shut the windows there, when the pirates appeared at the windows and fired a number of shots in the saloon. I put the wounded Captain underneath the table and then Dr. Macdonald and myself went also there. The robbers threw now a burning stinkpot in the saloon, which severely burnt the Captain and myself. The fumes became unbearable and we had to get out of the room. The Captain and Dr. Macdonald left on the starboard side, and I on the port side rushed through the firing pirates and went to the stokehold. The robbers followed me up, but I managed to hide behind the boilers and remained there until they had left the vessel. On board of the steamer was such a noise of shouting, crying, and revolver shots that one thought the whole ship was filled with pirates. When I came out again, the firemen told me the Captain was dead, and I went up on the bridge to ask the pilot where the Captain was. He answered he was dead, but could not tell me where his body was. I went down below on the deck and saw a dead body lying, which I took to be the Captain. Then I went to the passengers' rooms to look for Dr. Macdonald. Looking for the switch to turn on the light. I heard a voice calling my name. "Is it you, Seggie?" I did not believe it was the Captain, supposing he was shot dead, and asked, "Who are you?" "I am Joslin," answered the Captain, and then we shook hands congratulating each other on having escaped such a great danger. The Captain told me that the dead body was Dr. Macdonald's; he had seen him shot. Dr. Macdonald was talking to the pirates in Chinese: "Don't shoot," "don't shoot,"

but in spite of this they fired on him and shot him through the head. The Captain had got in a passenger's cabin and laid down on the bed, when the pirates rushed in to search the room. They saw him lying with the wound exposed and kicked him. But as he did not move, they thought he was already dead and tore off his coat and the ring off his finger and then left him, until I got him out.

"During the whole affair the steamer was in the hands of the pirates, who forced the men on watch in the engine-room and the pilots on the bridge, who were all covered by revolvers, to carry on according to their orders.

"As I came on the bridge, I found out that we were only 12-15 miles from Samshui, and I told the pilot to make for Samshui. Arriving there, I went at once on board of H. M. gunboat *Moorhen* lying there and told the Commander about the outrage. He and the doctor from the *Moorhen* went with me back to the *Sainam*. The doctor attended to the wounded. All four of the Indian watchmen were wounded, two of them very badly, also the comprador, who got a nasty blow over his head and several Chinese."

HONGKONG CHINAMAN'S EXPERIENCE.

Following the outrage on the s.s. *Sainam* by Chinese pirates comes another startling story from the turbulent province of Kwangtung in which a foki employed by Messrs. Hoong Cheong and Co., tailors, of Queen's Road Central, played a prominent part. Lai Ching-fuk left Hongkong last week to visit his parents at Saichiu a village some miles distant from Canton. He was not destined, however, to spend his holiday with his parents, for on the night of his arrival a gang of armed robbers visited the village, broke into his father's house, and with other booty carried him off captive. They also raided other houses, secured more valuables and two other men and marched to a more distant village called Taipingsha. Here the prisoners were chained together in a hut, at the door of which an armed sentry was placed on guard. They were informed by their captors that unless ransom to the amount of \$4,000 was forthcoming shortly, they would not leave their prison alive. During the first 24 hours of their captivity they were roughly handled by the robbers, who possibly thought that cuffs, blows and starvation would hasten the payment of the ransom. As night closed in on the second day, however, the brigands were not so watchful, and the sentry, probably thinking his captives were secure, left them unguarded while he went for his dinner. Meanwhile they were not idle, and discovering that the Chinese locks which fastened the anklets were not strong, managed after a little exertion to snap them. When freed they lost no time in forcing open the door of their prison, and they were making for the river when an alarm was raised and the robbers pursued them. Lau, with one of the other prisoners, was recaptured, but the third took to the water, and managed to elude his pursuers, who shortly afterwards gave up the chase and returned to their homes. The prisoners were confined in more secure quarters, and again shackled, while a new guard was placed over them. They appeared to be unlucky fellows, however, for notwithstanding the greater difficulties against which they had to contend, they decided on a second attempt to escape the same evening. Fortune favoured them; their jailer got drunk, the locks were again broken, and once more they succeeded in breaking open the door of their prison. They escaped from the camp without observation, and continued their flight through the night, putting as many miles between themselves and their pursuers as possible. At dawn they met a coolie who directed them to the nearest village in the vicinity. From this village they travelled by boat to Sainam, at which place they caught the train for Canton. Strange to relate, they did not report the matter to the authorities, but the story will probably be conveyed to them through other channels. Their adventure is but one out of many illustrations of the inadequate control of the provincial government.

A census of the inhabitants of the Colony is to be taken on Friday, November 20th and Mr. P. P. J. Wodehouse has been appointed census officer.

CANTON

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

July 17th.

RAILWAY AFFAIRS.

His Excellency Viceroy Shun has returned to Canton from Whampoa. He has invited the President, Vice-President and the Board of Directors of the Canton-Hankow Railway Company to a banquet at his Yamen on the 18th instant.

I. M. CUSTOMS LOOTED.

It is reported in the native newspapers that last week a daring gang of robbers over a hundred, armed with rifles and revolvers, attacked the I. M. Customs at Samshui. While they were ransacking the place, information was conveyed to the nearest military station, and a large body of braves appeared on the scene. A fight ensued and lasted about an hour. Seven of the robbers were arrested on the spot. The rest of them left with a considerable sum of money and booty. The Samshui Magistrate has sent seven robbers to Canton for trial. No further arrests have been made.

THE LINCHOW MASSACRE.

The £46,000 compensation for the murder of the missionaries at Linchow and the destruction of their property has just been paid to the American Consulate at Canton, as ordered. Recently Viceroy Shun communicated with the American Consul-General stating that the people in Linchow are very poor and that he was unable to exact the enormous sum of money from the village and pay the indemnity at once. He begged for a reduction of the amount or else more time in which to pay it. The Consul replied that the matter was decided between the respective Governments, that he had no power to alter it, and that if the amount were not forthwith paid over he would telegraph to his Minister at Peking. On receipt of this reply Viceroy Shun gave instructions to the Bureau of Local Affairs on the 13th instant to hand £46,000 to Wen Taotai, who paid it over to the American Consul on the same day. The Linchow murder affair is now closed.

MUTINY OF PRISONERS.

Since Western reforms have been introduced in the prisons of China (referring to the introduction of handicrafts such as shoe-making, rattan work, etc.), there have been several cases of mutiny and in one or two instances prisoners have successfully used their tools as weapons. On the 12th instant the prisoners over 300 of the Yeong Kong city (near Kongmoon) prison mutinied. They took advantage of a temporary reduction in the number of their guards, killed the officer in charge, and disabled such of the braves as did not run away.

They broke down the gate, and set the rest of the prisoners free and made for the department where all the firearms were kept. They took these, and most of them are now armed bandits.

CANTON PUBLIC GARDEN.

The land for making the public garden in the Chinese city has been surveyed and the plan has been drawn up, on similar lines to the public garden in Hongkong. It is proposed to commence the work on the 1st day of the 6th moon.

FRENCH COLONIAL CONGRESS.

The banquet held to close the French Colonial Congress was largely attended. The president, M. Déloncle, dwelt on the growing propaganda of the congress for the complete knowledge of the colonies and particularly of Indo-China. The Chinese Minister expressed the mutual desire of China and France to strengthen the bonds between the two countries. The representative of the Annamite Mission affirmed the loyalty of the Annamites towards France. Mr. Leygus, the Colonial Minister, outlined a notable political and colonial programme; he was not in favour of assimilating the natives, but would respect the beliefs, the customs, the traditions, and strive to render flexible the administrative system. The ministry would encourage the colonials, who ought to feel they had the Government behind them.—*Echo de Chine*.

THE RAILWAY IN YUNNAN.

A LETTER OF DEFENCE.

The following letter, with a postscript to the effect that no wages were withheld, appeared in the *Echo de Chine*:

I have taken notice of the attacks directed by certain papers against the French Railway Company of Yunnan. It happens that I have just now arrived in Shanghai after having followed the works of the iron road along its whole course from Laokai to Yunnan. I believe that it is my duty to protest against certain assertions which can only be based on ill-will or on an excessive credulity.

It is not correct to say that the coolies are badly treated. They are never struck, and that for several reasons; among others this, that the Company needs workers, and if they are badly treated they go away. They are better paid than everywhere else in the interior of China. In the Namti Valley rice is supplied at a price appreciably lower than the net cost price, because without this, by reason of the difficulty of communications, they would have to pay too dear. Barracks and hospitals have been constructed. Doctors are found all along the way. From Mengtze to Yunnan local workmen are employed. These are the same coolies who come to work every year when they have finished their agricultural works in their own districts. They are not therefore unhappy.

In the Namti Valley there are no inhabitants. One is obliged to employ Annamites and Chinese who come from the four quarters of China. The country is unhealthy. It was more so at the commencement of the works before the undergrowth all along the way had been burnt. By reason of this there have been from the commencement epidemics and a considerable loss among the coolies employed in this region. What was possible has been done to remedy this state of things, by improving the barracks, making the country salubrious, and by stopping work when the heavy rains are on. Finally in the Namti Valley the indigenous workers, the same as the European employees, are paid more than elsewhere. This increased payment is remuneration for the risk run.

I will add that everywhere, where a railroad has to be made in a tropical country, new and uncultivated, the same difficulties have to be encountered and the same accidents submitted to. A bad time has to be encountered, but it is a relatively short period, which is ultimately compensated by the unlimited advantages which come to the people of the country.

To those who consider that the expenditure of human life which has been recently made in the Namti Valley is too heavy I will say that no one has suffered from that, in his interest and in his purse, more than the Company which has the concession. I will add that one ought to judge only by comparison in this matter. Seek then to ascertain what has been the cost of bringing into existence the railway from Colombo to Kandy, and certain sections of the Burmese railways. It will then be seen on which side inclines the balance.

CITE DE MARSAY.

This letter, as well as French consular repudiations, has failed to convince the missionaries, who are now collecting subscriptions for the coolies.

THOSE "ILL-TREATED COOLIES"

AUTHORITATIVE ANSWER.

We feel glad now that we did not lend a credulous ear to the stories of cruelty and ill-treatment of coolies employed by the Yunnan railway syndicate. It will be remembered that one missionary committed himself to plain suggestions of murder and swindling; and that alone among the press of China, even before the French *Echo de Chine*, the *Daily Press* risked the opinion that the charges bore internal evidence of reckless exaggeration.

Mr. A. Wilson, author of the Mengtze trade report for 1905, issued by the Imperial Maritime Customs of China (unimpeachable evidence, we hope), writes as follows:—

"The construction of the railway between Laokai and Yunnan-fu—that great enterprise to which all well-wishers of Yunnan look forward as the one means of permitting this province to take her proper place in the markets of the world—has been perseveringly

pushed forward in the face of great difficulties, both climatic and economic. The vile climate of the Nan-hsi Valley has levied a heavy toll on those who have dared to open up its primeval jungles and gullies. The death rate among the coolies imported from various parts of the Empire and put to work in this dreaded valley may, without exaggeration, be estimated at 5,000, or 70 per cent. of the total number employed on that particular section of the line. The company has made praiseworthy efforts to counteract the evils of the climate in this valley. They have constructed a large number of suitable dwellings both for foreigners and natives, and have doubled the number of hospitals, placing as many as seven doctors on the first 150 kilometres from Hekow. Instead of attempting to carry on the work in the Nan-hsi Valley all the year through, the work is suspended almost entirely during the summer rains and the coolies moved up to the works on the high and healthier plateau. This measure while it economises the life of that most important individual in the building of any railway, namely, the coolie, must considerably delay the completion of the line, and we must therefore wait till 1910 at least for that great desideratum, namely, the linking up of Yunnan-fu with Haiphong. The year under review marks an important epoch in the history of French railway enterprise in Indo-China. On Christmas Day the first locomotive reached Laokai on the Tonkin-Yunnan border, and it is hoped that the coming spring will see the commencement of a through railway service between Haiphong and Laokai." What can be thought now of the reckless statements of which we complained?

A MINE AT THE YANGTZE MOUTH

THE ESCAPE OF THE C. N. S. "NINGPO."

Another serious accident by collision with a floating mine occurred on July 6th (morning) within about 14 miles of Shanghai, but it was fortunately not attended by any loss of life. The C. N. S. *Ningpo* (Capt. Eedy) left Shanghai for Japan ports on Thursday, the 5th instant, in place of the regular str. *Chenan* which was undergoing repairs in the New Dock. All went well until 3.25 a.m. on the 6th instant, when the vessel was in Lat. 31 deg. 35' N., Long. 124 deg. 25' E., about 130 miles E. N. E. of the Bell Buoy. At that time, without any warning, the steamer came in contact with a drifting mine. There was a tremendous explosion, followed by a heavy shock and a sheet of flame. The shock was so great that the crew in the fore-castle were almost thrown out of their bunks, and those on deck were thrown off their feet. The vessel was showered with spray from stem to stern, and pieces of the exploded mine rained upon the deck, one huge piece of metal falling upon the bridge deck and narrowly missing the second officer, Mr. Litch, who was on watch at the time. The passengers—Mr. and Mrs. Farrell and child and Mr. J. W. Burtwell—rushed into the saloon, and Capt. Eedy and the crew who were not on watch rushed on deck. The captain gave orders for the boats to be swung out, and this was done quickly, the officers and crew taking their stations and carrying out orders quite coolly. The engines were stopped and the holds were sounded, a considerable quantity of water being found in the fore-peak. Owing to the darkness, no estimate could then be made of the extent of the damage; but at daylight a thorough investigation was made, and it was then found that there was a large jagged hole—some two feet in diameter—just on the water line on the starboard bow, through which water was rushing into the fore-peak. The stem of the vessel was badly twisted and a number of plates on both port and starboard bows were dented or bulged. Fortunately the fore-peak bulkhead was uninjured, and this prevented the water from filling the holds. The forward ballast tanks were pumped out and the damaged bow thus raised high out of the water. The engineers improvised a stop-gap by means of plank and canvas and this was lowered over the bow and fixed in position over the hole. The *Ningpo* then put back to Shanghai, going slowly under her own steam, and arrived about 6.30 a.m. on July 7th, taking up her berth at Messrs. Butterfield and

Swire's Pootung wharves. When the accident occurred the weather was perfectly clear and the quartermaster who was on watch says that although he was keeping a good look-out, he saw nothing until he heard the explosion and saw the water rise like a water-spout, drenching him with warm water.—*N.-C. Daily News.*

CHINESE MINING ENTERPRISES.

It has probably struck many of those who have happened to note the large number of applications to start mining operations in the various provinces which have been reported from time to time, that by now China ought to be fairly bristling with newly-opened mines of all sorts, or at least preparations for them. When the new mining regulations were promulgated it will be remembered that there was a regular scramble to get mining concessions allotted to Chinese so as to outwit and forestall any and all possible foreign applications. When it was found that these were not pouring in, and there was no immediate danger of foreigners desiring to invest their capital under such unfavourable conditions as the Chinese Government offered, the Chinese set about things with a little less haste and a little more method. The applications did not cease, in fact they are said to be still going up to the Board at the rate of two or three a day, with a regularity which has at length attracted the attention of the Board. After careful investigation it has ascertained that most of these petitions are bogus schemes got up for the purpose of obtaining credit or to attain some other end, and that not one of them is being carried out. The petitioners are in most cases possessed of neither the knowledge nor the means to work mines, but who know very well how to turn the permit granted them to account in other ways. The Board has now therefore decided that in future anyone petitioning for mining rights must give indisputable guarantee that he really has the capital for the undertaking, and that the mine will be really worked before any certificate will be granted as the present condition of affairs is farcical and altogether contrary to the Government intentions. That this will result in any great mining development we do not for a moment believe, for the Chinese have not in the past proved themselves possessed of any mining skill save where the mineral has lain close to the earth's surface, and they have a deep rooted objection to underground burrowings and are easily discouraged by difficulties such as are to be met with in mineral areas in China. The costliness of mining work is another grave obstacle in Chinese estimation, as so much of the money raised for the purpose is actually required to accomplish the work, whereas in most other undertakings there is a generous nominal margin which offers scope for the play of those business qualifications which essentially belong to this country.—*Peking Times.*

WHAMPOA AGAIN.

The Chinese correspondent of the *Canton Daily News* has the following notes:—

Owing to the rapid growth of Japanese trade in Canton and the two Kwang provinces, the authorities in Japan have decided to open a Consulate in Canton. This will be done, we hear, on the 1st of October.

It is projected to build a railway from Canton to Whampoa to be connected there with the Hongkong (Kowloon)-Canton railway.

As the newspapers have mentioned already, it is intended to build a tramway on the new bund, from the eastern end to Yin Tong, and already a survey of the road has been made. It is also reported that it is not yet decided whether an electric or a horse traction tramway shall be built. In the case of an electric tramway a double line will be wanted and it must be remembered that the tract is a very long one. In the case of a horse-tramway it is only necessary to build one line from the public garden (which is proposed to be built by the Viceroy) passing through the different concessions on the bund. In this case the rickshas and carriages could pass to and fro on the road. The government is already communicating with the firm building the tramway as to the taxes which are to be levied.

A MINISTERIAL FALSE STEP

One of the most frequent causes of complaint in North China railway stations has been the intolerable crowd of Chinese of all classes and descriptions which habitually swarms on to the platform and invades the trains on arrival at any station. The alarm which the bomb incident caused last year, the *Peking Times* says, afforded the Chinese the necessary illustration of the inadvisability and danger of allowing these promiscuous gatherings. The plan was then adopted of instituting a regulation that only bona fide travellers should be allowed on the platform at Peking, and that those wishing to meet friends or to see them off must procure a five cent ticket for the privilege. At first sight the idea promised to work well and we all know that it is only ticketholders who are allowed on the platform of a station in any country with a properly organised railway service, and those who have been to Japan are aware how very strictly the rule is enforced and how excellently it is carried out. But as a preliminary to any such regulation being satisfactory there must be a proper and complete organisation of the luggage and cargo questions, otherwise the object of keeping the platform clear is not only defeated but very great hardship is necessarily entailed on those who have extensive goods traffic on the line. The recent imposition of the five-cent ticket in Peking was felt both vexatious and burdensome by those who had goods arriving daily by the trains, and by sometimes more than one train a day, a considerable number of packages meaning perhaps several trips in order to take them away with a charge of five cents each time, and the Chinese naturally found it a terrible tax. Foreigners in business, hotels and the like, presumably protested against this inconvenience, and the foreign Ministers through the doyen made a representation to the Waiwupu which led to the withdrawal of the regulation.

This, a correspondent pointed out, "was an unwarrantable interference on the part of the Ministers and is calculated to discourage the efforts of the railway administration to improve the organisation of the railway stations or take any notice of future complaints on the part of foreigners." It does not seem now to have been a false step. It is satisfactory to find that Ministerial intervention can be effectual, but they ought to be certain what is wanted. They should have let the arrangement stand, and insisted on what our Tientsin contemporary now suggests, "that the railway coolies should be created properly uniformed 'porters', and be responsible for the removal of all luggage and cargo from the trains to an enclosure beyond the platform, where the owners can take delivery of it by their own servants".

PREACHING CHINESE HATRED.

The *Canton Daily News*, the new foreign paper at Canton, gives the following interesting translation:—

The *Sze Man Sun Pao* of the 14th inst. contains the following article about the 14th of July:—

To-day is, according to the Western calendar, the 4th day of the 7th month, that is to say the anniversary of the conquest of Annam, and it is usual to assemble on this day in the different places of entertainment. We hear now that the French Consul and the French merchants of Shameen are preparing the details of the festival and that on the evening also a great firework display will take place. A good many merchants of our own country have hired houseboats in time in order to witness the spectacle. The following must be remembered: Annam was formerly within the Chinese boundary; but to-day it belongs to France. Therefore I think that on the day of this French memorial festival, the Chinese merchants should feel a hatred without limit. Who would imagine that they do not know that on that day Chinese blood was poured and Chinese lives taken? But notwithstanding they all go to enjoy that festival. If we think the matter over could our people still say 'we love our country and care for it'?

FOREIGNERS IN THE CUSTOMS SERVICE.

The following table compiled from statistics published in the *Tsinpao* (Tientsin), shows the number of foreigners of different nationalities employed in the indoor staff of the Customs at the present time, and five years ago:

	1906.	1901.
British	190	150
French	48	31
German	37	25
American	22	16
Japanese	16	6
Italian	10	8
Russian	9	11
Norwegian	9	0
Portuguese	8	6
Dutch	6	6
Austrian	6	5
Belgian	6	0
Danish	4	0
Spanish	2	2
Swedish	1	6
Swiss	1	0

The salaries of the Customs officials are as follows:—

Inspector-General ... Hk.	Tls.	24,000
Deputy "	"	18,000
Commissioners	"	9,200
	to	15,000
Deputy "	"	7,500
	to	8,400
Assistant I. A.	"	6,000
" I. B.	"	5,400
" II. A.	"	4,800
" II. B.	"	4,200
" III. A.	"	3,600
" III. B.	"	3,000
" IV. A.	"	2,400
" IV. B.	to	1,200
		1,800

The *Tsinpao* uses these figures as part of an article the tendency of which is shown in the following: "It will be seen from the above that the salary of the Inspector-General and Deputy I.-G. exceeds that of the Viceroy and Governor, while the salary of the Commissioner and Deputy exceeds that of the Provincial Treasurer and Judge; even the pay of the Assistants is much more than that of the Taotai and Prefect. With such high pay to foreigners in all the Customs of China, millions of taels have been issued during these several score of years; it is really a great drainage to the country. It will be a considerable advantage if this sum is collected and circulated among our own people in our own country."

After describing the qualifications and examinations of candidates for appointments in the indoor staff, the *Tsinpao* concludes:—

"Now according to these conditions there is no reason why, now that the essay system is abolished, our young men should not be able to qualify themselves for the Customs service. The requirements are simple: geography, universal history, and English; while the chief means of rapid promotion for foreigners, the knowledge of Chinese, is their native tongue, so that there are now hundreds of our young men who are in every way qualified to fill these posts and they should come forward and prove their efficiency. Will not our young men exert themselves to try to do a service to to their fatherland?"—*N.-C. Daily News.*

THE MANCHURIAN RAILWAY

The improvement of the permanent way and rolling stock of the Manchurian Railway is to be commenced this year and the necessary materials will be purchased and engineers engaged very shortly. It has been arranged that about 50 of this year's graduates from the College of Engineering in the Tokyo Imperial University will be engaged for work on the South Manchuria Railway.

The shipment of coal at Tairen from the pier seriously interferes with the loading of other cargo, and a large warehouse is also required for the storage of coal. The Government has a scheme under consideration to make Linsutan the coal port of the Fuchau and Yenta collieries.

THE CHINA ASSOCIATION.

DISCUSSION OF WEST RIVER
PIRACY.

VICEROY SHUM DENOUNCED.

A meeting of the Hongkong Branch of the China Association to discuss the question of piracy on the West River was held in the City Hall on Saturday afternoon. Mr. M. Stewart presided over a large attendance, which included Mr. D. R. Law (Butterfield & Swire), Mr. A. G. Wood (Gibb, Livingston & Co.), Mr. G. H. Medhurst (Dodwell & Co.), the Hon. Mr. E. Osborne (Wharf Co.), the Hon. Mr. W. J. Gresson (Jardine, Matheson & Co.), Mr. H. E. R. Hunter (Acting Chief Manager H. & S. Bank), Mr. T. P. Cochrane (Chartered Bank), Mr. P. Holyoak (of Messrs. Reiss & Co.), Mr. H. W. Slade (Gilman & Co.), Mr. H. P. White (Douglas, Lapraik & Co.), Mr. D. K. Moss (A. Ross & Co.), Mr. A. Beattie (W. R. Loxley & Co.), Mr. T. F. Hough (Hughes & Hough), Mr. G. C. Moxon (National Bank of China), Messrs. W. G. Humphreys, B. Layton, W. Saunders, C. D. Wilkinson, G. L. Tomlin, J. Scott-Harston, E. J. Grist, M. W. Slade, H. Pinckney, H. N. Mody, C. H. Ross, W. Parlano, F. Smythe, T. Skinner, E. G. Barrett, W. Armstrong, J. W. Kew, N. S. Brown, H. W. Looker and others. The room was well-filled.

The CHAIRMAN, in opening the proceedings, said—Gentlemen,—In calling this meeting together your committee have no other motive than an earnest desire to strengthen the hands of those whose official duty it is to assist in obtaining satisfaction for a gross violation of the British flag; to bring to justice the perpetrators of a diabolical outrage; and to insist that in future the Chinese authorities responsible for the safety of traders on the West River shall be made to fulfil their repeated promises of providing adequate protection. I am a believer in the friendly-watchdog theory of this Association. I conceive it to be no part of our duty unnecessarily to worry British officials who are doing their utmost to further the interests committed to their care. As a rule, in my view, it is only incumbent on us to offer an opinion when, looking at matters from a commercial standpoint, we are impressed by aspects possibly in danger of being obscured by considerations of a different order.

On the subject which we are here to discuss it may seem to some of you inconceivable that there can possibly exist any difference between official and mercantile views. It may seem to you a matter of certainty that every British official concerned, high and low, at home and abroad, from the Secretary of State in London to the Vice-Consul at Canton, must see eye to eye with those who are endeavouring, mainly out of patriotic sentiment, to develop the difficult, dangerous, and so far unprofitable carrying trade between Canton and Wuchow, or between Wuchow and Hongkong.

Your committee have every hope that this will prove to be the case. They hope that our authorities clearly perceive where the real responsibility rests, and they confidently anticipate the presentation of a united front and a firm attitude in fighting down the inevitable opposition of the Chinese authorities to our just demands. Nevertheless they consider it their duty to invite discussion on a resolution which I shall presently propose, with a view to making local mercantile opinion perfectly clear. If we succeed in doing this we shall then have done what is required of us by the objects of the Association. The first object of the Association is to represent and express the opinion of the British mercantile community. The circumstances leading up to the Samsui piracy demand such an expression of opinion.

To understand and appreciate all the circumstances it is necessary to think back over a decade. No one who came only yesterday to China can possibly understand or appreciate these circumstances unless he is gifted with a quick imagination. Without that gift newcomers will naturally be apt to regard the Samsui incident as an isolated event. Those of us who were here when the West River was opened realise that it is nothing of the sort. We know that it is merely the natural outcome of events which have taken place since then—that it is simply the culminating point in a long series of

incidents following one upon another, in logical sequence. It would be tedious if I were to dwell in detail on all these incidents. Moreover, of time does not permit of it. Time only permits me to indicate briefly certain broad and significant aspects of the question. Broadly treated and briefly stated, the circumstances may be summarised thus. The West River was declared open to trade in June, 1897, by Imperial Edict. At first many difficulties were encountered—ill-conceived regulations shifting channels, no buoys, no lights and other similar inconveniences incidental to pioneering; but that any danger existed of piratical attacks on steamers flying the British flag was not reckoned with seriously. No one who went to Wuchow in those days ever thought of it, any more than if the voyage had been to Macao. I was an early passenger. I remember the trip as if it had been made yesterday. The idea of danger never entered my head. But in a little time things began to change for the worse. Chinese launches, then entering upon the trade, offered good plunder to adventurous robbers and cases of piracy became frequent. Anyone who cares to study the records of the Chamber of Commerce and the China Association or to consult the files of the local press will find that the question of the proper protection of the West River trade has been constantly cropping up since then. We whose lot has been cast in Hongkong during the period know it as men know the things that have become woven into their daily life. We need no records to remind us that during the period of Li Hung-chang's viceroyalty these attacks became of much less frequent occurrence, and that towards the end of it they had practically ceased. Li Hung-chang, in fact, put down piracy. I wish particularly to direct your attention to that fact. It is important inasmuch as it serves to make clear that in the hands of a strong administrator the thing can be done (applause). Again no records are needed to enable most of us to recall the circumstance that after Li Hung-chang's departure these outrages were renewed. This was predicted by the Chairman of the Hongkong Branch of the China Association in his report dated May, 1899. There you will find these words: "A few months of feeble government on the part of Li Hung-chang's successor will again fill the river and its backwaters with pirates and robbers as numerous and audacious as ever." Li Hung-chang's successor proved to be feeble, with the result indicated. The piracies which occurred under his regime were, however, still confined to attacks on native craft. A noteworthy circumstance is that the acting Viceroy appeared to believe that the British flag had still sufficient prestige in the eyes of the pirates to ensure protection to passengers travelling under it. In support of this statement I may remind you that he went so far as to suggest to the British Consul in Canton that it would be desirable for the steamer companies' vessels to call at the smaller ports, then unopened, in order that Chinese passengers might travel in safety. The result of this suggestion was a letter from the steamboat companies to the Chamber of Commerce on September 19, 1902, requesting them to press for the opening of these ports. The outcome was that the Chinese authorities declared the ports open in January, 1903. The idea worked. Passengers of all nationalities travelled in safety under the British flag, Chinese benefiting equally with foreigners in immunity from outrages then constantly being perpetrated on passengers travelling in Chinese launches or other native craft. The outrages increased in number as had been predicted and things were in a bad way in the delta when the present Viceroy was appointed. When he passed through Hongkong on his way to assume office he had an interview with Sir Henry Blake, in which he undertook to make the suppression of piracy one of his first duties. For a time people believed that he intended to fulfil his promise. He started his official career in Canton as a professed enemy to evil-doers of all sorts. Those interested in the development of the West River trade looked hopefully forward to the institution of a campaign having for its object the destruction of those villages which are practically robbers' strongholds, whose location in the lower reaches of the river and in the upper delta is well known. For a time the Viceroy maintained some reputation as a

reformer. His name apparently inspired a certain salutary awe. Outrages decreased in number, while those that took place were confined, as during his predecessor's régime, to attacks upon native craft. Unfortunately this satisfied him. Herein lay his weakness. As long as the pirates confined themselves to small offences he confined himself to tinkering with the evil instead of honestly trying to root it out. Wrong-doers are quick to take advantage of slackness in those placed in authority over them. Little by little the pirates gained confidence and their depredations assumed more ambitious shapes. Appetite grows by what it feeds on. The appetite of the more adventurous spirits grew until eventually small native craft were no longer large enough to satisfy it. The first symptom was an attack made near Wuchow, in the latter part of last year, on a launch flying the British flag but with a Chinese coxswain, which made it evident that a new state of things had arisen. This incident was allowed to pass without any striking measures of retribution being taken to impress the perpetrators with the enormity of the crime. Indeed by this time the Viceroy's attitude to all representations of foreign rights had grown casual to a degree. Quite obviously he had come under the influence of the new wave of Chauvinism which now unfortunately animates mandarinism from one end of the empire to the other. Not only was nothing really done in the matter, but about Chinese New Year many of the patrol launches were withdrawn from the waters of the upper delta and laid up in the front reach at Canton, where they lay until the other day and where they may very well be lying now. Possibly it may have been about this time that the Viceroy made the suggestion to the British Consular authorities behind which he is now trying to shelter himself. I allude to the idea of making use of his braves to search Chinese passengers by foreign steamers. A great idea, truly—worthy of a great administrator—just the sort of suggestion that you might expect from a Hunan scholar with a fine contempt for trade and a learned ignorance of its requirements! A cheap means, too, of enabling him to shirk his responsibilities! He would have saved the pay of the braves who would no doubt have been well content to exchange it for the squeeze exacted. The Chinese in obedience to their gambling instincts would naturally prefer to take the risk of being held up in native craft to the certainty of being thus bled. No better scheme for discouraging them from travelling by these steamers could well be devised. The suggestion indicates that the Viceroy was well aware of the existence of the dangers, and also shows that he was unwilling to take effective measures to provide against them. Either he was unwilling or incompetent to do so. In either case the position called for his removal. Assuming him to have been able to put a stop to the intolerable state of affairs, the fact that he did not do it can only be explained on the supposition that he did not want to do it. Assuming, on the other hand, that he wanted to do it but could not, then clearly he was unfit for the post. In either event he should have been replaced by someone who both could and would perform the obvious duty. The natural result of all this was that on February 14 an attack was made on a large motor boat named the *Tien Kong*, owned by a British subject, trading up the West River from Samsui. £2,500 was stolen, and the motor boat was run ashore by the pirates almost opposite and in full sight of a Chinese guard boat, from which no assistance was forthcoming. As far as I can learn no satisfaction for the outrage has yet been obtained. But if anything was done it was clearly not sufficient to emphasize the heinous nature of the crime of violating a foreign flag. For on March 22 the Standard Oil Company's launch, the *Comet*, was held up and robbed and her crew brutally maltreated. Still nothing was done to vindicate the position of the foreign shipowner as guaranteed to him by China under the existing treaty. Following upon this came the piracy of a Chinese launch belonging to the Po On Company, a Hongkong company, from which \$10,000 were robbed. No punishment as far as is known here followed this outrage. The desperadoes now seemed to have come to the conclusion that it

would be comparatively safe to attack one of the larger foreign steamers plying on the West River, and so we have had to witness this last, worst case of all—the murderous and fatal attack on the *Sainam*. The details are fresh in your memory. It is unnecessary for me to go into them. The point I want to make is that the incident is clearly traceable to the supineness of the Chinese authorities in the face of the previous occurrences to which I have referred. And now comes the question: Who is the official directly responsible for this supineness? I can conceive of only one answer. Viceroy Shum is responsible. (applause). Dr. MacDonald's blood is on his official head. In common justice the Viceroy's official life should answer for the crime. It should be cut short by his enforced retirement (applause). This last is merely my private view. It may be met by the objection that there is no likelihood of Shum being succeeded by a better man. But even a worse man than Shum would be better for us if he came to his duties impressed by the idea that he had really to govern in order to reign. We are told that the Viceroy, in consequence of the prompt and energetic demands of the British Government, is doing his best at the moment to capture the culprits. The horse having escaped, great zeal is being brought to bear in shutting the stable door. This is all very well, but why did not the Viceroy display some zeal before? I think I can tell you. He thought it was safe to ignore British Consular representation. He ignored all manner of representations, consistently and persistently. Now he seems to be afraid. That is well. But his tremors will not bring the dead to life again, nor restore the loss of confidence in the protective power of the prestige of the British flag upon the river. Moreover, activity in searching for the *Sainam*'s culprits, in catching a few out of the 100 or more implicated, and exhibiting their heads on poles along the river bank, will not do any permanent good, unless it be accompanied by the systematic destruction of the pirates' lairs—well known to the people of the district—and furthermore be followed up by the inauguration of an efficient service of properly-manned and well-found steam cutters: not as at present, occasional launches lying idle at long distances apart with steam down and the crew asleep or gambling, living on wages most of which they do not get and making up the difference by taking "hush money" from the pirates. This is the sort of thing which has brought about the present evil. And for this, as for everything else, the Viceroy must be held accountable (applause). It is clear that he has not seriously endeavoured to cope with the difficulties of the situation, that he has allowed matters to drift, and that he has altogether failed to fulfil the functions of his high office. He is the real culprit. On his shoulders the blame rests and we should not rest until this has been made plain to him. Unless it is, the whole affair will soon be forgotten and the old evils will recur. In saying this I speak with the confidence arising out of the knowledge that I am uttering, not merely my own convictions, but those also of the leading members of the civil community; not only of the British mercantile community, but also of the heads of the mercantile houses of other nationalities who conduct business from Hongkong. Further, I make bold to say that these views are in consonance with those of every honest and law-abiding Chinese. Indeed, it is far more in their interests than in the interests of any foreigner that steps should be taken to eradicate these pirate pests and to re-establish law and order in the region of the delta where the Chinese are the chief sufferers from the lax administration of which we complain. Life, property and communication are alike unsafe, and trade languishes in consequence. In the interest of every merchant of every nationality, of every law-abiding Chinese, of every traveller, whether official, commercial, missionary or visitor to these shores, in the interest of everyone—including even the Chinese officials, if they would believe it—in the interest even of prospective pirates—who would be happier earning an honest livelihood—it is time that confidence should be restored; it is time, high time, that something definite and drastic should be done. These are the views on the strength of, which I invite you, gentlemen, to support the following resolution:—

"That this meeting of members of the Hongkong branch of the China Association desires to record the opinion that recent outrages on shipping in the West River are directly due to lax administration on the part of the Viceroy of Canton, and to press upon the London Branch the need for representing this to the Foreign Office, and while gratefully acknowledging the promptness and energy with which His Majesty's Government has already taken the matter up, members here present respectfully urge that unless the Chinese authorities can be induced to take steps to exterminate piracy and to prevent its recrudescence there is no guarantee that evils complained of will not recur" (applause).

The Hon. Mr W. J. GRESSON seconded the motion. He said—Mr Chairman and Gentlemen,—We must all deplore the regrettable incident that has necessitated our meeting here to-day. The daring piratical attack on the *Sainam* has unfortunately resulted in loss of life, among the victims being a man who has placed his time and training at the disposal of the Chinese with the desire to alleviate their sufferings, and what is his reward? an untimely death, due to no steps being taken by the authorities, to patrol and police the waterways, or, as they may well be called, highways of the province. It is not for a matter of weeks, or even months, but for years, that piracy has been rampant in what is generally called the Canton delta, indeed his knowledge of its existence has been openly admitted by the official responsible for the keeping of law and order, and it is almost incredible that no energetic steps have been taken to suppress the evil. You are well aware, gentlemen, that when foreigners act as pioneers in the shipping or any other trade, tending towards the development of the vast Chinese Empire, they do so under enormous disadvantage, in breaking down "old custom", and overcoming native susceptibilities. Nevertheless, lives and money are freely risked in the firm belief that on just such occasions as the present they can claim and promptly receive the protection of the flag under which they are working (applause). The Chinese are not slow to recognise this fact, and it is in a large measure owing to the protection and fair treatment which they expect to receive that they patronise steamers trading under a foreign flag in preference to those owned by their own countrymen, and with a footing once gained experience soon teaches the advantages of conforming to Western customs. It is therefore obvious that if this support be denied us, the risks will become so great that they must seriously interfere with, if not strangle, the development of trade in the two Kwang provinces. A contrast may be usefully drawn between the state of law and order which prevails in the district under the sway of Yuan Shih-kai and the lawlessness and disorder which is rife in the region administered by His Excellency Shum (applause). In asking our Government to insist and if necessary assist the Chinese Government in putting an end once and for all to this intolerable menace to life and property, which exists in a greater or less degree throughout the land, I am confident that we can look for their support, for we are not only asking their assistance on behalf of all foreign nationalities, but they will also be rendering a signal service to the Chinese nation at large (applause), who, like ourselves, are in the hands and at the mercy of these lawless robbers. With these remarks, Mr. Chairman, I have much pleasure in seconding the resolution that you have put to the meeting (applause).

Mr. D. R. LAW said—Gentlemen,—I will not detain you for more than a few minutes. I desire to give expression publicly to the deep regret of the owners of the *Sainam* at the lamentable death of Dr. MacDonald. That such a valuable life as his should have been so needlessly sacrificed at the hands of the cowardly ruffians who attacked the *Sainam* must ever be a matter of deep regret to us all, and I am sure I am expressing your feelings when I say that our deepest sympathy is extended to Mrs. MacDonald and family in their great loss (hear, hear). I also desire to give my hearty support to the resolution proposed by our Chairman. It is indeed high time for this Association to move and to demand that an end shall be made, once and for all, of these pariahs

of humanity who infest the trade routes of South China without let or hindrance and live on the proceeds of their vile murders and robbery. We do not only ask for the punishment of the guilty in the *Sainam* case, we demand that the pirates and their villages shall be eradicated (applause). We shall not be satisfied with such tardy effort as the Viceroy is reported to be making now (applause). The cancerous growth of piracy which has spread itself all over the Canton delta is not to be destroyed by taking action only when it manifests itself in some diabolical form such as the *Sainam* case. It requires a ruthless surgeon to apply the knife and cut it out root and branch (applause). Yesterday it was poor Dr. MacDonald who was sacrificed on the altar of official ineptitude and corruption, to-day it may be some other valued friend, to-morrow perhaps even yourself if your duty calls you to these regions. Every day it is the poor Chinese who suffer at the hands of unrestrained ruffianism; and are we to sit quietly by and never move a hand to stem the torrent of misery and suffering that follows on the train of these atrocities against humanity? We are more than justified in calling upon our Government to redress these wrongs (applause). If diplomatic pressure has no effect on the Chinese Government in awakening it to the enormity of its guilt and to a sense of its responsibilities, then I have no hesitation in affirming that it becomes the duty of our Government to take the matter in hand and propose to the other Powers more immediately interested joint action in putting an end to a state of affairs which is a disgrace to civilization (applause). In claiming the right of security for life and property, both for native and European alike, we are surely not asking too much. And if the Chinese Government admit their inability to provide that security upon which the highest form of human happiness and prosperity depends, then I conceive that they can no longer be treated by the usual diplomatic methods employed between civilized powers (applause). The British Government has always taken the lead in endeavouring to treat China as though she were a civilized power with the idea of helping her to become one, has always endeavoured to adopt a beneficent attitude towards the Court of Peking, with the result that there is no gratitude, no response, no radical change in the attitude of the higher officials towards us; indeed there is to day rather a return to the attitude of 50 years ago, to the bad old days of Commissioner Yeh, in whose modern prototype, Viceroy Shum, very little difference seems to exist (loud applause).

Mr. HUGHES, in supporting the motion, said—The temperate manner in which the resolution has been proposed and seconded must commend itself to everyone. In my opinion it has not gone far enough. When we saw our kith and kin being done to death it was time for determined action (applause). Supineness must disappear altogether, and it ought to be impressed on our Government that the lives and property of their subjects out here should have adequate protection. With these few remarks, I beg to support the resolution (applause).

The resolution was then put to the meeting and carried unanimously.

The CHAIRMAN intimated to the members that on Monday last the local Branch of the Association wired home to the London Branch urging that strong representations should be made to the Foreign Office.

With thanks to the Chairman, the proceedings then terminated.

We are able to give the text of the telegram sent by the local Branch to the China Association on Monday, the 16th inst: "British steamers hitherto able to compete in West River trade mainly because foreign flag and captain supposed ensure immunity from piratical attacks to which Chinese launches increasingly subject. If advantage derived from prevalence the idea not upheld in the case of the British flag, difficulties maintaining it on river will be greatly increased. Case piracy *Sainam* calls for enforcement strong demands on Viceroy of Canton for prompt and striking punitive measures calculated impress populace that flag cannot be violated with impunity. Energetic representation badly needed as piracy increasing and nothing being done to stop it."

CHRISTIAN SCIENCE.

HIS LORDSHIP THE BISHOP'S VIEWS.

At St. John's Cathedral on July 22nd his Lordship Bishop Hoare delivered an interesting sermon on "Hezekiah's Sickness and Christian Science", taking his text from Isaiah 38c. 1v.

His Lordship said:—It is a remarkable feature of the present day that on all sides we see new sects springing up. Both in England and America, especially in the latter country, during the last fifty years, men and women have arisen, who have claimed to have received some special revelation, or to have made some new discovery with regard to religion. They have collected a few followers, and have formed sects. These sects have in many cases grown and, for a time at any rate, apparently prospered. Some it is true have already practically disappeared, but others have increased, and have gained a large number of adherents. In considering these sects it is worthy of remark that many of them have based their claims to attention on one common feature, and that is on some particular theory of healing without drugs or surgical appliances. Names like "The peculiar people" in England, or "Dr. Dowie" in America, are probably fresh in the memories of many of you. We are apt to smile at the extravagances of such people, and to wonder at the success with which they gather adherents, and in some cases accumulate large sums of money. But I think that their success may be accounted for, partly by a not unnatural revolt against the materialism of the age, the denial by many of the spiritual side of existence; and also partly by the fact that undoubtedly many people do recover from sickness without the use of medicines, and therefore those who claim to heal without the use of drugs will always be able to quote instances of such cases. Amongst these sects there is one of which we have heard much of late in Hongkong. Many of us have been more or less interested in what is called "Christian Science", which has been recently introduced into this Colony. Mrs. Eddy, the founder, is, as you know, an American. She professes to have made a "sacred discovery" and it is her work to make this discovery known under the name of "Christian Science". Her "Science" embraces not religion only, but the whole scheme of existence; but she like others finds it expedient to bring healing into prominence as a means of gathering adherents in the early stages of her work. She learned, she tells us, that this science must be demonstrated by healing, before a work on the subject could be profitably studied. But it seems to me, as I study her writings, that Mrs. Eddy's system must be distinguished from others in one important respect. Other systems of healing, even the more extravagant of them, are for the most part superstructures erected on the fundamental truths of Christianity; Christian Science subverts or denies these fundamental truths. I am not unaware that it has been stated in Hongkong that it is possible to be a follower of Christian Science without altering one's relationship to the Christian Church. But such a statement must be based on ignorance either of what Christian Science teaches, or of what the Christian Faith really is. I cannot of course attempt to discuss even in outline the whole system, but let me mention a few points on which Christian Science is in direct conflict with Catholic Christianity. Take for instance some of our XXXIX Articles. I quote them because, being based on scripture, they, at any rate the earlier ones, express precisely the Catholic Faith of Christendom, formulated after lengthened discussion of many of the very points raised now again by Mrs. Eddy. The first Article states—"There is but one living and true God, everlasting, without body, parts, or passions; of infinite power, wisdom, and goodness: the Maker and Preserver of all things both visible and invisible. And in unity of this Godhead there be three Persons, of one substance, power, and eternity, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost." With

this compare Mrs. Eddy's statement: "Life, Truth, and Love constitute the triune Person called God—that is the triply divine Principle, Love. They represent a trinity in unity, three in one—the same in essence though multifarious in office. God the Father; Christ the spiritual idea of sonship; divine Science or the Holy Comforter." (p. 331). Note the attempt to parody the doctrine of the Holy Trinity; note the denial of the personality of the Son and of the Holy Ghost. Note, too, the shocking nature of the last sentence: "Divine Science" is the Holy Ghost the Comforter! One turns over the pages of the book in the hope that in a book that is full of contradictions, there may be something to show that one has read the sentence wrong. But no; again and again the same statement recurs. "In the words of St. John (writes Mrs. Eddy), 'He shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you forever.' This Comforter I understand to be Divine Science" (p. 55). My lips shrink from uttering such things; but I feel that, in treating of this subject, it is my duty to point out that throughout this book we are taught that the Holy Ghost the Comforter, whom the whole of the Church Catholic confirms to be "The Lord and Giver of Life, who with the Father and the Son together is worshipped and glorified", by whom we ourselves have been quickened into life, "is divine Science" (p. 588). Mrs. Eddy's "discovery." Again with regard to the manner and purpose of the Incarnation, in Article 11, it is stated that "two whole and perfect natures, that is to say the Godhead and Manhood, were joined together in one Person, never to be divided, whereof is one Christ, very God and very Man; who truly suffered, was crucified, dead and buried, to reconcile his Father to us, and to be a sacrifice, not only for original guilt, but also for all actual sins of men". Is it possible to reconcile with this the frequent statements of Mrs. Eddy about the "dual personality" of Jesus Christ (p. 334 etc.)? Or what are we to say of the statement that "His disciples believed Jesus dead while he was hidden in the sepulchre, whereas he was alive" (p. 44)? Or again the teaching that we must not pin our faith to another's vicarious effort (p. 22), or that "Jesus suffered for our sins, not to annul the divine sentence against an individual's sin, but to show that a sin must bring inevitable suffering" (p. 11)? What then becomes of the countless passages of scripture to the effect that Christ "is the propitiation for our sin", and that "He gave His life a ransom for many"? Again, is it consistent with the Christian Faith to hold that Christ did not ascend into Heaven with all things appertaining to the perfection of Man's Nature (p. 334, cf. Art. iv)? And once more, is it consistent with Christ's commands to the faith and practice of any Christian Church to call the sacrament of the Lord's Supper "a dead rite", and to say that it is not necessary "to do this in remembrance" of Him until His coming again? (p. 31)?

I am afraid that I have taken much of your time in enumerating these points in which the teaching of Christian Science differs on fundamentals from the teaching of Catholic Christendom. But I have been constrained to do so because, as I have said, I know that there are those in Hongkong who have been led into dalliance with this system, as being a system of healing, in the belief that it is not opposed to adherence to the truth of the Gospel and faith in Christ as the saviour of mankind. I think that I have said enough to show that the two things are incompatible: and if anyone wishes to verify my quotations I shall be most happy to afford them the opportunity to do so.

But now if we turn to the teaching about healing what do we find? Is Mrs. Eddy's teaching on this matter consistent with that of the Scriptures? She says that she takes the inspired Word of the Bible as our sufficient guide to eternal life (p. 497). True, she uses the inspired word after a fashion of her own. She has no hesitation about altering or adding words to suit her own theories, as, for instance, in the text "we were reconciled to God by the [seeming] death of His Son" (p. 45); nor does she hesitate to class Jewish theology, which is embodied in the inspired word of the Old Testament, with "heathen mythology" (p. 446). But still, in theory at any rate, she appeals to the inspired

word as authoritative. Let us therefore take the narrative of Hezekiah's healing, about which I was speaking two Sundays ago, and see what help, what spiritual gain, we can get from it, as viewed in the light of Christian Science. Down to the passage, Isaiah. xxxviii., "In those days," we read, "was Hezekiah sick unto death" v. 1, and from v. 21 we learn that he had a "boil", or "botch" as the word is translated elsewhere. This is a mistake, says Christian Science, "Man is incapable of sin, sickness, and death" (p. 475). "It is erroneous to believe in the existence of a tumour or a cancer" (p. 395). Hezekiah only thought that he had a boil; "the unreality seemed real to his human belief" (p. 472). Isaiah the prophet, however, came to him not, as Christian Science would teach, to silently reassure the patient as to his exemption from disease and danger" (p. 411), but to confirm his erroneous belief with a message from God:—"Set thine house in order; for thou shalt die and not live" (v. 1). What are we to say about the inspired prophet? The explanation, which offers itself in Mrs. Eddy's book, is sadly painful, but I must give it. He was a prophet of the Lord, that is, of Jehovah. Now this term, which is used throughout the inspired scriptures of the Old Testament, is only used, we are told, when the true scientific statements of the scriptures become clouded, through a physical sense of God as finite and corporeal. From this follow idolatry and mythology" (p. 59). So Isaiah the prophet of Jehovah, whose glorious descriptions of the majesty of the infinite God, and denunciations of idolatry, are unsurpassed even in sacred literature, was but the ignorant messenger of what Mrs. Eddy calls "a finite and corporeal God". I almost shrink from pursuing the subject. You know how Hezekiah prayed. "God," says Mrs. Eddy, speaking of prayer, "is not moved by the breath of praise to do more than He has already done" (p. 2). Yet we read that the message came again to Hezekiah, "Thus saith the Lord, the God of David thy father, I have heard thy prayer, I have seen thy tears: behold I will add unto thy days fifteen years (v. 5). Then Isaiah said "Let them take a lump of figs, and lay it for a plaister upon the boil, and he shall recover" (v. 21). Again, according to Mrs. Eddy, Isaiah was in grievous error. "Drugs and hygiene oppose the supremacy of the living Mind" (p. 434). "To employ drugs for the cure of disease shows a lack of faith in God" (p. 319). But yet Hezekiah recovered; nay more, he attributed his recovery directly to God's interposition. "What shall I say? He hath both spoken to me, and himself hath done it" (v. 15); "The Lord is ready to save me" (v. 20). What shall we say? Shall we agree with the inspired song of Hezekiah? or shall we agree with Mrs. Eddy? She writes, "The prayer of faith shall heal the sick", says the scripture. What is this healing prayer? A mere request that God will heal the sick has no power to gain more of the divine presence than is always at hand. The beneficial effect of such prayer for the sick is on the human mind, making it act more powerfully on the body through a blind faith in God. This, however, is one belief casting out another—a belief in the unknown casting out, a belief in sickness; and again, "This common custom of praying for the recovery of the sick finds help in blind belief" (p. 12). My friends, is it a blind belief that we have a loving Father in heaven? Is it a blind belief that, "the eyes of the Lord are over the righteous and his ears are open unto their prayers" (1st Peter, iii. 12)? Is the Bible wrong when it teaches us to come as children into a Father's presence, to be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving to let our requests be made known unto God? "In everything", whatever your circumstances may be, in sickness or in health, in temporal affairs, in spiritual affairs, "in everything" we are taught to take our requests and make them known unto God.

His Lordship concluded with a touching appeal for continued faith in prayer, but on orthodox lines.

[The references his Lordship cited above are from the two hundred and seventy-third edition of the book "Science and Health", published in 1903.]

HONGKONG GYMKHANA CLUB.

FOURTH GYMKHANA.

The fourth meeting of the Gymkhana Club was held at Happy Valley on Saturday afternoon, when the officials of the Club discharged their duties with the same zeal as heretofore and the racing was as good as usual. There was a decrease, however, in the attendance, probably due to the heat of the day and other attractions.

Judging [by Pari-Mutuel payments, which were larger than usual, the results of a few of the races came as a surprise to even those who make it their business to attend trainings. In the welter race, which by the way was not a good one, Mr. Moxon's J. J. paid a dividend of \$64.80; Preston in the hurdle race paid \$31, while \$22.60 was paid on Highland Gillie in the mile and a quarter. The Challenge Cup was a disappointing race, as only two ponies faced the starter. Blue Nile securing an easy win. Mr. Hughes had a fall in the welter race, but fortunately was not seriously injured.

H. E. the Governor was present, and in his party were Sir Francis Pigott, Colonel Darling and a number of ladies. The sitting accommodation on the flat was well filled, and the gymkhana committee had thoughtfully erected a bamboo covering over it which protected the occupants from the sun. The band of the West Kents, under Bandmaster McKelvie, played during the afternoon.

Results were:—

One Mile and a Quarter Flat Race. Handicap.
Mr D. Macdonald's Highland Gillie, 10st. 11lb. (Mr. Gegg) 1
Mr W. G. Clarke's Pathan, 10st. 8lb. 5lb. allowed (Owner) 2
Mr H. F. Hickman's Roscommon, 10st. 3lb. (Mr. Dupree) 3
Father O'Flynn's Merrymist, 9st. 10lb., 5lb. allowed (Mr Gresson) 0
Mr G. K. Hall-Brutton's Preston, 11st. 5lb. (Owner) 0
Hon. Mr W. J. Gresson's Mamodeen, 10lb., 7lb. (Owner) 0

As the starter's flag dropped the ponies took the field together and raced in a bunch past the village. Passing the judge's box for the first time Pathan led, Preston and Roscommon following hard behind, while Highland Gillie headed the rest of the field. Passing the football stand Highland Gillie drew into third place, Preston falling behind. Up the incline Pathan still led, but Roscommon and Highland Gillie drew level with him passing the village. The race home along the straight was an exciting one, Highland Gillie managing to win by a nose from Pathan. Roscommon ran a good third. Time—2.45 2/5. The Pari-Mutuel paid \$22.60 on the winner.

Welter Race, 3 Furlongs.

Mr Moxon's J. J. (Owner) 1
Mr Henchmans Sirocco (Owner) 2
Mr R. Inbek's Saxon (Mr. Tifenbacher) 3
Hon. Mr W. J. Gresson's K.O.S.B. (Mr. H. W. Slade) 0
Mr Logan's Paisley's Pride (Owner) 0
Mr Slade's Atlas (Owner) 0
H. E. the Governor's Shim-osite (Capt. Smith) 0
Mr. Hughes' Rabbit (Owner) 0
Mr MacDonald's Highland Whisky (Mr Doran) 0

Nine ponies started in this race, which was spoiled through some misunderstanding about the start. The ponies straggled off as the flag fell and the majority of the spectators were doubtful as to whether it was a race, likewise the officials, who did not instantly proclaim the winner. The starter, however, said it was, and the order past the winning post was: J. J., 1; Sirocco, 2; Saxon, 3. The fortunate number of backers on the winner received a dividend of \$64.80.

Gymkhana Club Challenge Cup.—Distance One Mile.

Mr Godfrey Master's Blue Nile, 10st. 11lb. (Mr Master) 1
Mr G. K. Hall Brutton's Kingston, 11st. 2lb. (Owner) 2

The Challenge Cup race was a disappointment. Usually this is considered the event of a gymkhana, but on Saturday there were only

two starters, Kingston with Mr. Brutton up and Blue Nile ridden by Mr. Master. The ponies covered the length of the course running side by side until the straight was entered. Then Blue Nile took and maintained the lead until the winning post was passed beating Kingston by about three lengths. Time—2.08 2/5. Dividend, \$6.20.

Ladies' Nomination. Afternoon Tea Stakes.—A number of small tea tables to be arranged on the course, and ladies to be seated at their tables. Gentlemen to be lined up some distance away dismounted. On the word "go" they are to gallop to their nominators who will give them tea. The gentlemen must drink a cup of tea and eat a small biscuit, then return to starting point. An umpire will be at each table to see that the conditions are carried out, and points will be deducted for unseemly haste, etc. First at winning post with least number of points deducted to win. 1st and 2nd Prizes presented by the Club. Entrance fee \$3. Post Entries.

Mr Dupree, nominated by Miss Brutton 1
Mr H. W. Slade, nominated by Mrs. Phelps 2
Captain Smith, nominated by Mrs. Aitken 3

Mr M. W. Slade, nominated by Mrs. Ram 3
A glance at the course when this race was about to start gave one the impression that an afternoon tea party was in progress, and the ladies certainly looked to be more in their element sitting alongside tea tables than they were at previous gymkhanas, where bran pies or horrid figures had to be wrestled with. As the flag fell the jockeys bore down on the tea tables where a cup of tea awaited them. This they swallowed, apparently with no unseemly haste (an onlooker was heard to say their speed might have been greater had the fluid been less unfamiliar). Then they raced a distance down the course and back to the winning post. Three-Quarters of a Mile Flat Race. Handicap.

Mr W. G. Clarke's Lashmere, 10st 12lb (Mr. Dupree) 1
Mr Ottery's Red Herring, 10st 7lb (Mr. Master) 2
Mr W. G. Clarke's Pathan, 10st 11lb (Owner) 3
Father O'Flynn's Merrymist, 10st (Mr Gresson) 0
Mr F. H. Hickman's Roscommon, 10st 6lb (Mr Wilkin) 0
Mr A. C. Hynes' Ingot, 10st 10lb (Mr Brutton) 0
Mr D. Macdonald's Highland Raider, 10st 9lb (Mr Gegg) 0

After several false starts the field of seven got away in a bunch. Highland Raider taking the lead as the football stand was passed. He was supplanted by Pathan, who made the running going up the incline. Passing the village Ingot headed the field but fell out in the home run. Dupree kept Lashmere well in hand until the straight was entered. Then he gave the pony its head and it rapidly drew on the leaders, racing past the winning post a length in the van. Red Herring just managed to beat Pathan for second place. Time—1 min. 35 2/5 secs. Lashmere paid a dividend of \$17.70.

Hurdle Race.—For China Ponies. Distance about One Mile and a Quarter.

Mr G. K. Hall Brutton's Preston, 10st 13lb (Mr Brutton) 1
Hon. Mr W. J. Gresson's Glenburn, 10st 13lb (Mr Dupree) 2
Hon. Mr W. J. Gresson's Eager, 10st 8lb (Mr Josling) 3
Commander H. D. Wilkin's Linkman, 10st 8lb (Owner) 0

Glenburn led at the start and took the first hurdle, Eager following in his wake, while Preston and Linkman ran neck and neck some distance behind. Eager drew level with Glenburn and the field ran in pairs until the straight was entered. Then Preston's rider showed what that pony could do. Although some distance behind Preston was allowed a free rein and urged on with the whip. He responded gallantly, overtook the leaders, and raced home with a length to spare. Glenburn was second and Eager third. The Pari paid a dividend of \$31.

The Peking-Hankow line cannot be re-opened for some time. There have been fresh inundations.

EDUCATION IN HONGKONG.

Referring to the recent report of the Hong kong schools inspection, a correspondent of the *N. C. Daily News* says:—In Hongkong we have no struggle over an educational bill, and no vexed feelings over religious denominationalism. Yet many of the elementary schools are under the control of missionaries, and are known as Grant-in-aid Schools. Here Government expects four hours per diem to be devoted to distinctly secular education, such as is approved of by the Inspector of Schools. Outside of this the manager or teacher can teach Christianity, Buddhism or even the effete traditional ideas found in old books of Chinese cosmogony. I believe the schools directly under the control of the Government are strictly secular. Altogether there are eighty-three schools in the Colony. The average attendance this year has been 5,323. For many years few or no fees could be commanded from the pupils, this year they have amounted to nearly \$10,000. There has been a substantial increase over last year. The actual amount spent by the Government this year amounts to \$158,677.8, but this sum is less by some \$30,677.42 than the sum arranged for in the estimates. The teaching in the vernacular schools is very elementary, because there are no properly trained teachers. There should be founded in Hongkong a small college for the training of masters, whereupon something effective could be hoped for, but whilst there is a dearth of qualified teachers little that is really effective can be done.

RETURNED COOLIES.

The coolies who return from the Rand apparently do not regard themselves as slaves. Most of them find themselves with more money than ever they had before, and it leads them to indulge in all sorts of excesses and dissipation. A number who have recently arrived in Hongkong from South Africa have been giving the local police considerable trouble. These men, now living in idleness, are continually getting into mischief. They rob each other, they quarrel with each other, and fights calling for police interference are common. Nearly every day some of these coolies are placed before the magistrates, but heavy fines seem to be no deterrent.

In course of conversation the other day with an intelligent Chinaman, who knew those northern coolies well, our representative put the question to him—Do these people regard themselves as slaves? "No," was the ready reply, "they are very well off. They make plenty of money—that is for coolies. You heard to-day of one man just returned who had over \$300. He must have been paid well to earn that in such a short time. That sum would keep him for two years in the interior. Of course the overseers may perhaps treat some of them badly, but then you must remember there are a lot of very bad characters among them. No matter what the people of England may have been told, these men are certainly not slaves."

RUSSIAN EMBASSY AT TOKYO.

FALLING INTO LINE.

It is stated in *L'Echo de Chine* that the Russian Government has decided to change its legation at Tokyo to an embassy. As soon as sanction has been obtained from the Duma, the change will be made.

PLAGUE IN FORMOSA.

TERRIBLE MORTALITY.

From March 16th to June 30th no fewer than 2,573 cases of plague occurred in Formosa, of which 2,004 terminated fatally. The total number of cases from January 1st to June 30th is 2,787, of which 2,169 were fatal. The majority of cases are reported from the Kagi district.

It is strange that very little is reported in the Japanese papers regarding the plague in Formosa, the mortality from which, as appears above, is very great.

COMMERCIAL.

SILK.

Messrs. A. R. Burkill & Sons' Silk Circular, dated Shanghai, July 4th, 1906, states:—We have transferred our Raw Silk and Pongee business to Mr. F. C. Heffer, who will in future issue the Circular. The home markets are firm. Gold Killing is quoted in London at 13s., and in Lyons at Frs. 56.50. Raw Silk.—No business has been reported in Tsatlees, a small business only having been done in Green Kiahings and 9.12 Moss Taysam. Yellow Silks.—Mienyangs have been settled at Tls. 395 for S. C. No. 1. Hand Filatures.—We only hear of one transaction for Europe and a few bales for America. Steam Filatures.—Have changed hands to the extent of 300 bales. Waste Silk.—We hear that Kading Frisonets have been fixed at Tls. 26-27 for whole bales and Tls. 70 has been paid for Curles No. 1. Native speculators are chiefly responsible for the high price of Kading Frisonets.

OPIUM.

HONGKONG, 12th July, 1906.—We beg to continue our advices of the 28th June, since when the movements in our various Opium markets have been as follows:—

Stocks as per circular of	Malwa	Patna	Benares	Persian
28th ult., 1906	1,276	1,677	152	1,984
June 29th Imports per	20	—	—	—
29th	—	—	—	—
July 5th	—	—	—	—
8th	—	—	—	—
11th	—	—	—	—

Less Exports to Shanghai	1,471	3,012	1,257	2,975
Less Exports to East and West Coast Ports including Local Consumption for the fortnight	110	207	189	—
	101	581	229	330

Estimated Stocks this day 1,264 2,221 85 1,745

Bengal.—The Chinese have purchased a fairly large quantity during the fortnight. Prices after declining to \$872½ and \$802½, recovered to \$880 and \$805 for Patna and Benares respectively. The market closes steady.

Malwa.—Business to the extent of 80 chests was done at the following prices.

New	\$ 950
2 years old	980
3	1,030
4/5	1,080
Oldest	1,130

Persian.—The market is quite.

PIECE GOODS.

Messrs. Noel, Murray & Co.'s Report on the Shanghai Piece Goods Trade, dated Shanghai 12th July, 1906, states:—Although there is still an enquiry at Tientsin for American goods, and more business could have been done at about previous prices, there is a lull in operations owing to the advance holders are now asking. This buyers do not seem inclined to pay until they get some inkling as to how earlier shipments pan out, consequently very little more than what we advised last week has been done, the sales and re-sales reported during the interval probably belonging to the preceding period. The weather has continued to be wretchedly bad and the cotton crop is now in jeopardy, so there is every promise of great distress in the country. There is no special news from any of our dependencies. Some Yarns have been bought for the Newchwang market, but it does not seem prepared to take goods yet, and steamers for that port carry little more than food stuffs. Clearances for Tientsin, Chefoo and Kiaochow have improved, and the River steamers are taking more freight in the way of Piece Goods and Yarn. Taking it altogether the Native dealers appear to be decidedly more hopeful for the future. They are, however, very apprehensive concerning the recurrence of another flood, which is foretold as likely to take place owing to the overflowing of the Yangtze, and in a great many cases are taking the precaution to insure against it. The rates charged for this are certainly excessive, seeing that it is only likely the bottom tier of goods would be damaged, and it would only be a partial loss. The Manchester market is nominally firm, but there seems to be a little more disposition to treat for fresh business. Prices are so much over these at present ruling here, however, that operators find little inducement to do anything. The Liverpool quotations for cotton received yesterday were 6.10d. for Mid-American and 10½ for Egyptian. The New York market is still very strong, but we hear some light cloths have been settled for this market, the particular weight being in comparatively short supply here at present. Yarns have continued active for both Northern markets and the Yangtze, and prices are improving all round. The demand for local requirements is keeping cotton firm.

TRADE WITH MANCHURIA.

Several of the Japanese newspapers are taking up the recent complaints made by the commercial community here and, at first sight, their arguments, supported by statistics, would lead to the conclusion that there was no justification for them. But an inspection of the figures shows that they are for the trade of the whole of China and not for Manchuria alone, and moreover the figures are for the years 1903, 1904, and 1905, up to which time there had been no reason to complain of any undue advantages having been taken by Japan to increase her trade at the expense of other Nations. The following extract from the *Asahi* shows what Japanese merchants are preparing to do with the assistance of their Government. "Five Cotton textile companies in the Kansai district, viz. Osaka Boseki, Miye Boseki, Kanakin Seishoku, Temma Oriumono and Okayama Boseki, have formed a guild for the exportation of cotton goods to Manchuria. The guild is to entrust Mitsui & Co. with the sole business of selling their goods. The above-mentioned factories will manufacture cotton goods equal to the standard quality, and label them with the same trade-mark. They will export at least 12,000 bales (valued at 1,200,000 yen) every year, and keep up the exports, even though they incur some loss in the business. The Mitsui Co. has decided to do its best to push on the sale, and the service will be rendered free of charge for the time being. In order to successfully promote their enterprise in the face of inevitable competition, the parties concerned have approached the Ministers of Finance and of Communications with the following requests:—(1.) The Government to guarantee a maximum loan of 6,000,000 yen at the rate of interest of 4 per cent. per annum, to be advanced on documentary drafts, payable in four months. The loan to be advanced in gold in Japan and repaid in silver at the place of payment of the drafts, according to exchange quotations on the date of payment of the drafts. (2.) Goods mentioned in the drafts to be delivered under certain limitations, even before they are paid or when a security has been furnished, according to circumstances. (3.) The Chinese Eastern Railway to carry the exports free of charge or at half rates for one year hence. (4.) The marine freightage also to be reduced to one-half for one year hence. In this connection the Government has decided to make the loan through the Yokohama Specie Bank without limitations as to the amount, not on cotton textiles, but on matches, cement, beer, marine products, timber, cotton yarns, and other goods to be exported to Manchuria, at the rate of 4½ per cent. per annum. In case a single concern or company has effected an export of more than 5,000,000 yen a year, the Government will refund ½ per cent. of the interest mentioned above. As regards freightage the Government will carry out negotiations with the War Office in connection with the Chinese Eastern Railway, and also with the Nippon Yusen Kaisha and Osaka Shosen Kaisha. The Government will pursue a similar policy with regard to Corea, where the Dai-ichi Ginko (First Bank) is to act as the Specie Bank acts in Manchuria."

EXCHANGE.

MONDAY, July 23rd.

ON LONDON.—	
Telegraphic Transfer	2/ 4
Bank Bills, on demand	2/ 1 1/2
Bank Bills, at 30 days' sight	2/ 1 1/2
ON LONDON.—	
Bank Bills at 4 months' sight	2/ 1 1/2
Credits at 4 months' sight	2/ 1 1/2
Docu mentary Bills, 4 months' sight	2/ 1 1/2
ON PARIS.—Bank Bills, on demand	46 1/2
Credits 4 months' sight	270 1/2
ON GERMANY.—On demand	217
ON NEW YORK.—Bank Bills, on demand	51 1/2
Credits, 60 days' sight	52 1/2
ON BOMBAY.—Telegraphic Transfer	158 1/2
Bank, on demand	158 1/2
ON CALCUTTA.—Telegraphic Transfer	158 1/2
Bank, on demand	158 1/2
ON SHANGHAI.—Bank, at sight	72 1/2
Private, 30 days' sight	73
ON YOKOHAMA.—On demand	103 1/2
ON MANIL.—On demand	103 1/2
ON SINGAPORE.—On demand	10 1/2 p.c.m.
ON BATAVIA.—On demand	127 1/2
ON HAIPHONG.—On demand	24 p.c.m.
ON SAIGON.—On demand	2 p.c.m.
ON BANG OK.—On demand	60
SOVEREIGNS, Bank's Buying Rate	\$9.40
GOLD LEAF, 100 fine, per tael	\$49.60
BAR SILVER, per oz.	30 1/2

AMOY CUSTOMS RETURNS.

JULY 16TH, 1906. List of the principal goods passed through the Amoy Customs House from 23rd June to 20th June, 4 p.m.—

IMPORTS.

GOODS.	QUANTITY.
Cotton, Raw, Indian	pls. —
" " Native	" —
" " Yarn	355
Shirtings, Grey	pcs. 50
T-Cloths	" —
Shirtings, White	698
T. Red Shirtings	" —
Drills	" —
Shirtings Dyed, Brocades	" —
" Dyed	" —
Damasks	" —
Camlets	" 10
Lasting	" —
Spanish Stripes	yds. —
Ldlatres, Figure	" —
Lead, in pigs	pls. —
Tin in slabs	" —
Iron, Nail rod	" —
Crucksilver	" —
Iron, Old	" 1
Ironwire	" —
Rice	25,407
Opium, Patna	" —
" Benares	51
" Persian	1
" Malwa	—
" Szechuan	10
" Yunnan	20
" Kiangsu	—
Sesamum Seed	102
Sapanwood	" —
Sandalwood	" —
Rattans	" —
Wheat	938
Flour	5,660
Bennecke	15,600
Beans and Pens	7,308
Bicho de Mar	4
Mata Tea	pcs. —
Oil, Kerosene American	gal. —
" " Borneo in bulk	216,300
" " Russian	" —
" " Sumatra	" —
" " Bulk	103,080
Coal	tons —
Tobacco Leaf	pls. 576
Vermicelli	" 60

EXPORTS.

GOODS.	QUANTITY.
Sugar, White	pls. —
" Brown	" —
" Candy	192
Heup Bags	pcs. —
" Sacking	" —
Paper I Quality	pls. 325
" II	40
Tobacco, Prepared	320
Kittysols (umbrellas)	pcs. 600

MISCELLANEOUS EXPORTS.

Per steamer *Ajax*, sailed on 5th July. For Port Said:—29 packages rattanware. For London or Continent:—150 cases bristles. For London:—132 cases chinaware, 24 cases black-woodware, 40 bales canes, 658 rolls matting, 30 cases palm leaf fans, 789 packages firecrackers, 40 cases preserves, 81 bales feathers, 530 packages merchandise, 250 packages merchandise. For London or Glasgow:—250 cases preserves. For Glasgow:—6 cases jade stone. For Leith:—2 packages furniture. For London or Continent:—50 cases bristles, 60 rolls matting, 37 bales feathers, 200 bales cassia. For Buenos Ayres:—9 rolls matting. For Amsterdam:—25 boxes tea, 125 bales cassia. For Rotterdam:—25 cases cassia, 30 cases tea, 11 cases tea sticks. For Antwerp:—30 bales canes.

Per P. & O. steamer *Delta*, sailed on 14th July. For Manchester:—128 bales waste silk. For London:—63 cases shells (opt.), 4 packages cassia, 24 packages private effects, &c., 5 cases china ink, 3 packages sundries, 3 cases feathers, 155 rolls mats and matting, 1 case woodware, 75 bales waste silk, 456 half-chests tea (from Amoy), 2 packages tea, 6 cases silks. For Gibraltar:—4 packages private effects, 1 case silks. For Milan:—30 bales raw silk. For Lyons:—145 bales raw silk. For Liverpool:—3 cases cigars. For Marseilles:—3 cases feathers, 50 bales waste silk, 123 bales raw silk, 3 cases silks, 9 cases hair.

Per P. & O. steamer *Japan*, sailed on 19th July. For London:—5 cases human hair, 118 bales canes, 1 package sundries, 53 cases chinaware, 10 cases blackwoodware, 5 cases curios, &c., 5 packages merchandise, 507 packages bulbs, 220 packages tea (from Amoy), 3,767 boxes tea, 9,150 bales hemp.

SHARE REPORTS.

HONGKONG, 24th July, 1906.—With the exception of a remarkable slump in Shanghai Docks the market has ruled featureless. Local rates have been, with few exceptions, well maintained, and in some important cases show improvements. Business, although not by any means brisk, has not been moribund, and the market retains some of the signs of a renewed vitality which were apparent last week.

BANKS.—Hongkong and Shanghai continue to rule strong, and the demand for the stock still meets with no response. Buyers are now willing to pay \$835, but no shares are forthcoming, and we have no sales to report. Nationals remain unchanged with business at \$47.

MARINE INSURANCES.—Unions are still enquired for at \$810, but we have heard of no sales. China Traders have improved to \$100 without bringing any of the few remaining shares on the market; the China Traders-Union Certificates have been placed during the week at \$190 and \$191, and close in demand at the latter rate. Cantons have been negotiated at the reduced rate of \$340, and more shares are available at that. Yangtszes have again been done at \$172½, and close steady. We have nothing further to report under this heading.

FIRE INSURANCES.—Hongkong have found buyers during the week at \$312½ and \$315, the market closing with buyers at the latter rate. Chinas continue in a small demand at \$38, and small sales have been effected at that rate, while at time of closing small buyers are offering \$38½ for shares.

SHIPPING.—Hongkong, Canton and Macao have been placed at \$27, and are still wanted. With the approaching dividend, however, holders are unwilling to part except at an advance. Indos have ruled quiet with small sales at \$70, closing quiet at that rate. Douglases are wanted at \$43½/44 but none seem to be available. We have nothing else to report under this heading.

REFINERIES.—Citic Sugars have fallen to \$145 without business. Luzons are enquired for at \$20 in a small way.

MINING.—We have nothing to report under this heading.

DOCKS, WHARVES AND GODOWNS.—Hongkong and Whampoa Docks have been placed during the week at the reduced rate of \$148, but a further demand at that rate fails to bring out more shares, and it is doubtful whether a point or two higher would induce holders to part, in view of the reported decent result of the half-year's working. Shanghai Docks, on the issue of the report, quickly fell in the latter part of the week to Tls. 91 ex div. of Tls. 4 paid on the 18th instant, at which rate, however, buyers came in, and a good many shares changed hands locally; at time of closing buyers at Tls. 88/89 fail to find sellers, and the market closes steady to strong. Hongkew Wharves have been placed in Shanghai at Tls. 220. Kowloon Wharves continue in demand at \$106, but holders are not inclined to part.

LANDS, HOTELS AND BUILDINGS.—Hongkong Lands have improved to \$114 with sales. West Points have changed hands at \$52, and close with a few shares offering at that rate. Hotels after a small sale at \$125, were placed at \$123, but the sale seems to have been an exceptional one, and the market closes with no sellers under \$125. Humphreys have been enquired for at \$11, but no shares are forthcoming.

COTTON MILLS.—We give the Shanghai quotations for the Northern Mills at foot. Hongkong Cottons remain unchanged and without business at \$14 sellers.

MISCELLANEOUS.—China Providents have been placed at \$9, and more are wanted at the rate. China Borneos are still enquired for at \$7½ without bringing any shares on the market. Green Islands have found further buyers at \$28½, and more shares are still wanted. Philip-pines have been negotiated at \$5, Watsons at \$13, and China Lights at \$10; we have nothing further to report under this heading.

Closing quotations are as follows:—

COMPANY.	PAID UP.	QUOTATIONS.
Alhambra	\$200	\$100
Banks—		
Hongkong & Shanghai	\$125	\$835, buyers (London, 292)
National B. of China A. Shares	20	\$47, sales
Bell's Asbestos E. A.	12s. 6d.	\$7
China-Borneo Co.	\$12	\$7½, buyers
China Light & P. Co.	\$10	\$10, sales
China Provident	\$10	\$9, sales & buyers
Cotton Mills—		
Ewo	Tls. 50	Tls. 75
Hongkong	\$10	\$14, sellers
International	Tls. 75	Tls. 61
Laou Kung Mow	Tls. 100	Tls. 75
Soychee	Tls. 300	Tls. 300
Dairy Farm	\$6	\$10½
Docks & Wharves—		
H. & K. Wharf & G.	\$50	\$108, buyers
H. & W. Dock	\$50	\$148, sales & buy.
New Amoy Dock	\$62	\$18, sellers
Shanghai Dock and Eng. Co., Ltd.	Tls. 10	Tls. 88, buy. & x.d.
Shai & H. Wharf	Tls. 100	Tls. 220
Fenwick & Co., Geo.	\$25	\$22, sellers
G. Island Cement	\$10	\$28½, sales & buy.
Hongkong & C. Gas.	210	\$175, buyers
Hongkong Electric.	\$10	\$15, sellers
H. H. L. Tramways.	\$100	\$235, buyers
Hongkong Hotel Co.	\$50	\$125, sellers
Hongkong Ice Co.	\$25	\$240, buyers
Hongkong Rope Co.	\$10	\$29, sellers
H'kong S. Waterboat	\$10	\$9½
Insurances—		
Canton	\$50	\$340, sales & sel.
China Fire	\$20	\$88½, buyers
China Traders	\$25	\$100, buyers
Hongkong Fire	\$50	\$315, sales & buy.
North China	25	Tls. 85
Union	\$100	\$810, buyers
Yangtze	\$80	\$172½, sales
Land and Buildings—		
H'kong Land Invest.	\$100	\$113½, buyers
Humphreys' Estate	\$10	\$11, buyers
Kowloon Land & B.	\$30	\$38, sellers
Shanghai Land	Tls. 50	Tls. 110, ex div.
West Point Building	\$50	\$52, sales & sel.
Mining—		
Charbonnages	Ecs. 250	\$450, nominal
Raub.	18 10	\$31
Philippine Co.	\$10	\$5
Refineries—		
China Sugar	\$100	\$145, sellers
Luzon Sugar	\$100	\$20, buyers
Steamship Companies—		
China and Manila	\$25	\$20, sellers
Dougl's Steamship	\$50	\$43½, buyers
H. Canton & M.	\$15	\$27, sales & buy.
Indo-China S.N. Co.	210	\$70, sales & sel.
Shell Transport Co.	21	27/6
Star Ferry	\$10	\$30, sellers
Do. New	\$5	\$21, sellers
Shanghai & H. Dyeing	\$50	\$50
South China M. Post.	\$25	\$20, sellers
Steam Laundry Co.	\$5	\$6, sellers
Stores & Dispensaries—		
Campbell, M. & Co.	\$10	\$32
Powell & Co., Wm.	\$10	\$10½
Watkins	\$10	\$4½, sellers
Watson & Co., A. S.	\$10	\$13, sales & sel.
United Asbestos	\$4	\$9
Do. Founders	\$10	\$160

VERNON & SMYTH Brokers

Messrs. J. P. Pisset & Co.'s Share Report for the week ending the 12th July, 1906, states:—There has been a fair business done during the past week in most stocks, and a marked improve-

ment has taken place in all Cotton Mill Shares. Shanghai Dock and Engineering Co. Shares have also firmed up considerably for July settlement. The T. T. rate on London to-day is 2/11. Banks.—Hongkong and Shanghai Banks.—The result of the half year is published to-day, and is very satisfactory as usual. A dividend is declared of £1.15s. per share, \$750,000 is added to Silver Reserve, and \$1,700,000 carried forward to next year's working. No business has been reported locally, but there are buyers in the market. Hongkong quotes \$820 buyers and the latest London quotation is £92. Fire and Marine Insurances.—No business reported. Shipping.—Indos have been dealt in at Tls. 54 and 55 for July, and further shares are wanted. Shanghai Tug and Lighter Co. Ordinary Shares have changed hands at Tls. 62 cash and Tls. 62 July. Docks and Wharves.—A marked improvement in the price of Shanghai Dock and Engineering Co. Shares has taken place. Early in the week shares were dealt in at Tls. 105½, 100½ July and Tls. 106 September, but the price has now improved to Tls. 110 July, 110½ September and Tls. 111 October. Shanghai and Hongkew Wharves. The market closed with buyers at Tls. 222½ cash and Tls. 227½ September. Sugars.—No operations reported. Mining.—Weihaiwei Golds. A fair number of shares have changed hands at \$2 for the \$19 paid up scrip. Lands.—No business reported, but Shanghai Land Investment Co. Shares are wanted at Tls. 114. Industrial.—A good business has been done in all Cotton Mill Shares. Laou Kung Mow's have been dealt in at Tls. 72½ cash, Tls. 73 and 73½ July, and Tls. 75 September. Ewo's have been quoted at Tls. 65 cash and July, Tls. 67½ September, from which rate they jumped to Tls. 73 September. International Cotton Mills. There are buyers at Tls. 58, and business has been done at Tls. 61½ and 62 September. Maatschappij, &c., in Langkats. Business has been done at Tls. 225 and 226 cash; Tls. 225, 226½, 227½ July and Tls. 227½ August. The market closed weak at the latter rate. Stores and Hotels.—Weeks & Co.'s shares have changed hands at \$20. Hotel des Colonies are wanted at Tls. 16½. Astor House Hotels are quoted at \$32.75. Centrals (old) at \$18, and Hall & Holtz at \$23. Loans and Debentures.—Nothing reported.

TONNAGE.

HONGKONG, 13th July.—There has been a limited demand for tonnage during the past fortnight, and rates are lower all round. From Saigon to Hongkong, part cargoes have been secured at 10 cents per picul; to Philippines, 23 cents nominal; to North Coast Java, 17½ cents for prompt and 20 cents for August/September loading. From Iloilo to this, 18 cents per picul last. From North Coast Java to Hongkong, 24 cents per picul nominal. From Newchwang to Canton, 12 cents per picul. From South Japan coal, port to Hongkong, \$1.30 per ton last. The following are the settlements:—

Eang—British steamer, 1,127 tons, Newchwang to Canton, 17 cents per picul.

Wingsang—British steamer, 1,517 tons, Newchwang to Canton, 17 cents per picul.

Kweiyang—British steamer, 1,062 tons, Newchwang to Canton, 18 cents per picul.

Wandooth—British steamer, 2,086 tons, Moji to Hongkong, \$1.30 per ton.

Resolut—Norwegian steamer, 865 tons, Moji to Hongkong, \$1.30 per ton.

Labog—Norwegian steamer, 942 tons, Moji to Hongkong, \$1.35 per ton.

Fri—Norwegian steamer, 850 tons, Hongay to Canton, \$1.75 per ton.

Victoria—Swedish steamer, 1,181 tons, Saigon to one port North Coast Java (prompt), 17½ cents per picul.

Quarta—German steamer, 1,146 tons, Saigon to one port North Coast Java (35,000 piculs), 21 cents per picul.

FREIGHT.

Messrs. Wheelock & Co.'s Freight Market Report, dated Shanghai 5th July, 1906, states:—Our Homeward Freight Market has improved slightly since last writing, and although the hides and wool seasons are practically over the tea season, now well advanced, should amply make up for them. We regret having omitted to draw the attention of shippers to the fact that the rates on strawbraid to London and the Continent have been reduced. Coastwise.—Things could hardly be worse than they are at present, and we can only hope that we have now touched "bed-rock," there is any quantity of tonnage offering for employment but practically no demand in any direction whatever except at "starvation" rates and owners prefer to keep their ships laid up.

SHIPPING.

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES SINCE LAST MAIL.

July—

ARRIVALS.

- 12, Laertes, British str., from Saigon.
 13, Bourbon, French str., from Saigon.
 13, C. Diederichsen, Ger. str., from Haiphong.
 13, Foxley, British str., from New York.
 13, Fri, Norwegian str., from Hongay.
 13, Haiching, British str., from Coast Ports.
 13, Hanoi, French str., from Haiphong.
 13, Laertes, British str., from Liverpool.
 13, Quinta, German str., from Bangkok.
 13, Shansi, British str., from Shanghai.
 13, Tean, British str., from Manila.
 13, Tichow, British str., from Shanghai.
 14, Aki Maru, Japanese str., from Shanghai.
 14, B. A. Broch, Norw. str., from Shanghai.
 14, Bilary, German str., from Swatow.
 14, Kumsang, British str., from Calcutta.
 14, Shahjehan, British str., from Saigon.
 15, Apenrade, German str., from Haiphong.
 15, Bombay Maru, Jap. str., from Shanghai.
 15, Chipping, British str., from Chefoo.
 15, Korea, Amr. str., from San Francisco.
 15, Kwanglee, Chinese str., from Shanghai.
 15, Phranang, German str., from Bangkok.
 15, Proteus, Norwegian str., from Chefoo.
 15, Shachsing, British str., from Shanghai.
 15, Skuld, Norwegian str., from Hongay.
 16, Chingtu, British str., from Yokohama.
 16, Choyang, British str., from Shanghai.
 16, Emma Luyken, Ger. str., from Mauritius.
 16, Glenstrae, British str., from London.
 16, Hue, French str., from Haiphong.
 16, Knivsberg, German str., from Iloilo.
 16, Prometheus, British str., from Shanghai.
 16, Rubi, British str., from Manila.
 16, Sambia, German str., from Hamburg.
 16, Soshu Maru, Japanese str., from Kobe.
 16, Tsurugisan Maru, Jap. str., from K'notsu.
 16, Yuensang, British str., from Manila.
 17, Austria, Austrian str., from Trieste.
 17, Glenfalloch, British str., from Singapore.
 17, Haimun, British str., from Tamsui.
 17, Japan, British str., from Shanghai.
 17, Johanne, German str., from Haiphong.
 17, Lothian, British str., from M. J.
 17, P. B. Luitpold, Ger. str., from Bremen.
 17, Seydlitz, German str., from Yokohama.
 17, Shawmut, American str., from Tacoma.
 17, Siam, British str., from Shanghai.
 18, Hashidate, Japanese cruiser, from Tonraue.
 18, Kashing, British str., from Newchwang.
 18, Kiukiang, British str., from Shanghai.
 18, Loosok, German str., from Bangkok.
 18, Mad. Rickmers, Ger. str., from Bangkok.
 18, Marwarri, British str., from Kobe.
 18, Masan Maru, Japanese str., from Swatow.
 18, Sunda, British str., from London.
 18, Teucer, British str., from Shanghai.
 19, Amigo, German str., from Haiphong.
 19, Crusader, British str., from Calcutta.
 19, Eva, German str., from Hamburg.
 19, Nord, Norwegian str., from Chinkiang.
 19, Paklat, German str., from Bangkok.
 19, Simonsen, Dutch str., from Cheribou.
 20, Achilles, British str., from Liverpool.
 20, Amiral Duperre, Fr. str., from Antwerp.
 20, Coptic, British str., from San Francisco.
 20, Frithjof, Norw. str., from Coast Ports.
 20, Haitan, British str., from Coast Ports.
 20, Hakato Maru, Japanese str., from Moji.
 20, Nordkap, Danish str., from Moji.
 20, Progress, German str., from Taikham.
 20, Taming, British str., from Manila.
 21, Daphne, German str., from Chefoo.
 21, Kweichow, British str., from Tientsin.
 21, Kwongsang, British str., from Shanghai.
 21, Lowther Castle, British str., from Amoy.
 21, Loyal, German str., from Bangkok.
 21, Maizuru Maru, Jap. str., from Anping.
 21, Mathilde, German str., from Moji.
 21, Meofoo, Chinese str., from Shanghai.
 21, Mercedes, British str., from Yokohama.
 21, Selenga, Russian str., from Hankow.
 21, Taikosan Maru, Jap. str., from Kuchinotsu.
 21, Triumph, German str., from Haiphong.
 21, Wandsworth, British str., from Moji.
 22, Akashi Maru, Jap. str., from Anping.
 22, Arratoon Apar, British str., from Calcutta.
 22, Astrae, British cruiser, from Shanghai.
 22, Labor, Norwegian str., from Moji.

DEPARTURES.

- 13, Amigo, German str., for Haiphong.
 13, Anglo-Saxon, British str., for New York.
 13, Chiyuen, Chinese str., for Canton.

- 13, Frithjof, Norwegian str., for Coast Ports.
 13, Gerd, Norwegian str., for Bangkok.
 13, Glenesk, British str., for Saigon.
 13, Hongbee, British str., for Amoy.
 13, Kamakura Maru, Jap. str., for Singapore.
 13, Kanji Maru, Japanese str., for Bangkok.
 13, Kumano Maru, Jap. str., for Australia.
 13, Loongsang, British str., for Manila.
 13, Numantia, German str., for Portland.
 14, Andree Rickmers, Ger. str., for Bangkok.
 14, Charterhouse, British str., for Amoy.
 14, Delta, British str., for Europe.
 14, Foxley, British str., for Shanghai.
 14, Haitan, French str., for Hoihow.
 14, Hakata Maru, Jap. str., for Shanghai.
 14, Rangaug, British str., for Shanghai.
 14, Huichow, British str., for Tientsin.
 14, Jacob Diederichsen, Ger. str., for Hoihow.
 14, Kwangtah, Chinese str., for Shanghai.
 14, Peik, Norwegian str., for Bangkok.
 14, Zafiro, British str., for Manila.
 15, Anghin, German str., for Bangkok.
 15, Derwent, British str., for Swatow.
 15, Josbin Maru, Japanese str., for Tamsui.
 15, Haiching, British str., for Coast Ports.
 15, Laertes, British str., for Shanghai.
 15, Marie, German str., for Haiphong.
 15, Pronto, Norwegian str., for Newchwang.
 16, Aldershot, British str., for Tanjong Batu.
 16, Amara, British str., for Hongay.
 16, Hanoi, French str., for Haiphong.
 16, Laertes, British str., for Saigon.
 16, Liangchow, British str., for Shanghai.
 17, Bombay Maru, Japanese str., for Bombay.
 17, Borneo, German str., for Sandakan.
 17, Ellis Rickmers, Ger. str., for Bangkok.
 17, Hongkong Maru, Jap. str., for S. F. cisco.
 17, Namsang, British str., for Calcutta.
 17, Siam, British str., for Singapore.
 17, Tean, British str., for Manila.
 17, Ujina Maru, Japanese str., for Kuchinotsu.
 18, Apenrade, German str., for Hoihow.
 18, Chingtu, British str., for Australia.
 18, Chiyuen, Chinese str., for Shanghai.
 18, Clara Jebben, German str., for Hongay.
 18, Glenstrae, British str., for Shanghai.
 18, Hue, French str., for Haiphong.
 18, Kaifong, British str., for Iloilo.
 18, Magallanes, Amr. str., for Manila.
 18, Montagle, British str., for Vancouver.
 18, P. B. Luitpold, German str., for Shanghai.
 18, Prometheus, British str., for London.
 18, Sambia, German str., for Shanghai.
 18, Seydlitz, German str., for Europe.
 18, Tsurugisan Maru, Jap. str., for Kuchinotsu.
 19, Haimun, British str., for Coast Ports.
 19, Hashidate, Japanese cruiser, for Japan.
 19, Heimdal, Norwegian str., for Saigon.
 19, Japan, British str., for London.
 19, Joanne, German str., for Deli.
 19, Marwarri, British str., for Calcutta.
 19, Phranang, German str., for Hoihow.
 19, Trym, Norwegian str., for Calcutta.
 20, Carl Diederichsen, Ger. str., for Haiphong.
 20, Fooksang, British str., for Calcutta.
 20, Glenfalloch, British str., for Amoy.
 20, Kowloon, German str., for Yokohama.
 20, Masan Maru, Japanese str., for Swatow.
 20, Sabine Rickmers, Brit. str., for Newchwang.
 20, Sunda, British str., for Shanghai.
 20, Yuensang, British str., for Manila.
 21, Amiral Duperre, Fr. str., for Shanghai.
 21, Austria, Austrian str., for Shanghai.
 21, Dakota, American str., for Seattle.
 21, Eva, German str., for Yokohama.
 21, Kwanglee, Chinese str., for Shanghai.
 21, Nordkap, Danish str., for Singapore.
 21, Rubi, British str., for Manila.
 21, Shansi, British str., for Kobe.
 21, Shachsing, British str., for Shanghai.
 22, Achilles, British str., for Shanghai.
 22, Amigo, German str., for Haiphong.
 22, Ben Nevis, British str., for Newcastle.
 22, Chipping, British str., for Tientsin.
 22, Choyang, British str., for Shanghai.
 22, Knivsberg, German str., for Hongay.
 22, Frithjof, Norwegian str., for Coast Ports.
 22, Haitan, British str., for Coast Ports.
 22, Progress, Ger. str., for Kwangchowwan.
 22, Seleng, Russian str., for Singapore.
 22, Teucer, British str., for London.

PASSENGERS.

ARRIVED.

Per Korea, from San Francisco, &c., Messrs. H. U. Jeffries, W. B. White, Mr. and Mrs. A. H. Fair, Mr. F. Burcaming, Miss M. Roxas, Mr. and Mrs. G. L. Andrews and two children.

Messrs. S. N. Dearth, George French, Steve Ganson, Harold Gibson, H. L. Hirshey, W. R. Johns, James J. Robins, Homer G. Smith, A. Romero, Miss M. G. Romero, Mrs. E. T. Sproat and son, Messrs. W. J. Whitney, J. F. Yeager, Mr. and Mrs. Fred. A. Thompson and three children, Mr. H. C. Black, Misses T. and W. Ward.

Per Prinz Regent Luitpold, for Hongkong from Bremen. Mrs. Tilly Warlich, Mrs. Margarethe Sobill. Mr. and Mrs. Carl Messner; from Southampton. Mrs. L. Page, Mr. James Punncheon; from Genoa, Messrs. J. H. Kemp, Hans Breckwoldt, A. L. Breckwoldt, Carl Leidecker, Herm. Bottjer, H. Raum, Erle Heitzke, Com. Andree, Bootsmann Paul Fr. Schulz, Mr. Jac. Krakowski; from Penang, Miss Hoops; from Singapore, Mr. J. Pollock, Jr.; for Manila from Southampton, Mr. J. Grieve and family; from Port Said, Dr. Harry J. Marshall; for Shanghai from Bremen, Miss Margarethe Harlinghausen; from Antwerp, Mr. A. Docquier and family; from Southampton, Mr. John Johnson, Mrs. Stevenson, Mr. and Mrs. Love, Messrs. J. Hayes, H. Sides, C. Jayes, J. Langley; from Genoa, Mr. J. W. Prins, Mrs. How, Dr. Theodor Delins, H. E. and Mrs. Yang Tsao Yuen, Vice-Consul von Lonneysen, Messrs. R. Reutter, K. Muller; from Aden, Mr. St. Spands; from Naples, Capt. Carlo de Lucca, His Excellencies Tai and Tuan, Mr. Jeruccio; from Rotterdam, Messrs. Laoko Alfred Sze and T. L. Bakker; from Colombo, Mr. and Mrs. A. Alexander; from Penang, Mr. H. Brewer; from Singapore, Mr. H. M. Grunberg and Mrs. Hill; for Kobe from Southampton, Mr. J. Knight; for Yokohama from Genoa, Messrs. W. Burck and A. Herold; from Port Said, Capt. Ahmed Jadli; from Singapore, Mr. G. P. Brühl.

Per Seydlitz, for Hongkong from Yokohama, Capt. C. S. Ward; from Shanghai, Messrs. W. S. Young, Ernst Horn, W. G. Jeffries, J. Blan, W. Ziegler, Ed. J. Barton, Haesloop, E. Pereira, V. D'Oliveira, Mrs. Richard, Miss Taylor, Mr. P. Lazarus, Mr. W. Leon; from Foochow, Mr. and Mrs. Schneider.

DEPARTED.

Per Della, from Hongkong for Singapore, Messrs. A. C. Holborow and T. Wroe; for Colombo, Mrs. Hall Wright; for Marseilles, Messrs. F. W. Grant and A. M. Thornhill; for London, Mr. R. Heywood, Miss C. Cleland, Mr. A. Wilson, Miss Henderson; from Shanghai for Singapore, Mr. Becher; for Bombay, Messrs. Kalanj, J. Naronji and Master; for Colombo, Mr. Lyon; for Marseilles, Mr. and Mrs. Stern; for London, Mr. Learmonth.

Per Prinz Regent Luitpold, for Shanghai, Messrs. E. Schroeder, W. Goetz, S. A. Levy, A. Silbermann, Mr. and Mrs. Sprunli, Miss Kalles, Mrs. Grace Yeung, Mrs. Krates and child, Mrs. Rangel, Mr. and Mrs. Rangel, Mr. and Mrs. N. Siqueira and children; for Nagasaki, Mrs. Jameson, Mr. Lee Jones; for Kobe, Mr. and Mrs. Cousins; for Yokohama, Dr. Kober.

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